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A-LEAGUE FINALE

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GOLD COAST UNITED



2

PERTH GLORY



1

National Youth League
2010 Grand Final
Perth Glory 1 (Dean Evans 75')
Gold Coast United 2 (Chris Harold 82', Tahj Minniecon 90'+1)
Saturday, 20 March 2010
Etihad Stadium, Melbourne
Local kick-off: 3.00pm AEDT
Referee: Jarred Gillett
Assistant referees: Adam Papuga and George Lakrindis
Fourth official: Lucien Laverdure

Perth Glory Youth line-up: 1.Alex PEARSON (gk), 2.Ryan PEARSON, 3.Steve HESKETH (c), 4.Sam MITCHINSON, 5.Joshua RISDON (8.Howard FONDYKE 58'), 6.Dean EVANS, 9.Mario MARCINKO, 10.Glen TRIFIRO, 11.Ludovic BOI, 12.Reece VITTIGLIA (7.Tommy AMPHLETT 58'), 21.Hayden DOYLE (13.Sebit OYET 92+').

Substitutes Not Used: 20.Tim DOYLE (gk)

Yellow Cards: Mario Marcinko 17', Sam Mitchinson 53', Hayden Doyle 79'
Red Cards: Nil

Gold Coast United Youth line-up: 1.Jerrad TYSON (gk), 2.Steven TOPALOVIC, 3.James BROWN, 5.Ben WEARING, 7.Zac ANDERSON, 8.Steven LUSTICA (c), 9.Chris HAROLD, 10.Koh SATAKE (15.Rueben WAY 77'), 11.Ben HALLORAN (6.Mitchell BEVAN 77'), 12.Tahj MINNIECON, 14.Josh BRILLANTE

Substitutes Not Used: 4.Callum HARE, 20.Tim ANDERSON (gk)

Yellow Cards: James Brown 64'
Red Cards: Nil

Gold Coast grabs NYL glory

By Roy Hay

IT took a brilliant individual goal by Tahj Minniecon in the last minute of normal time to decide the destiny of the National Youth League title as Gold Coast United beat an unlucky Perth Glory by two goals to one.

In an open, exciting game Perth Glory and Gold Coast United deserved a much bigger audience for their National Youth League Grand Final at Etihad Stadium on Saturday.

Gold Coast played a fluid 3-5-3 formation, while Perth were even more adventurous with four men in attack for much of the time.

Both sides allowed their opponents to play and the first half had no stoppage time whatsoever reflecting the fluidity of the game and the spirit in which it was played.

Referee Jarred Gillett contributed by letting the play flow, yet picking up on necessary free kicks and most of the potential advantages.

Perth's right winger Reece Vittiaglia ran a series of opponents ragged though his final ball in the first half was often just a fraction off target.

Gold Coast had a strong spell of pressure in the middle of the half, winning a series of corners and the closest they came to a goal came when Minniecon hit the outside of the post on the half-hour.

Keeper Alex Pearson probably got a finger-tip on the rasping effort.

A lovely Perth move involving Vittiaglia, Mario Marcinko and Ludovic Boi ended with a scissors kick by Boi which was grabbed by Jarrad Tyson in the Gold Coast goal.

Marcinko had another attempt which Tyson managed to deflect on to the roof of the net as the first half ended, breathless at all the chances, but still goal-less.

The second half saw more end to end



Tahj Minniecon (left) scored the winner for Gold Coast.
PHOTO: DANIEL FLIS

sallies by both teams and a string of chances, but then in 75 minutes, Dean Evans found a little space about 30 metres from goal and fired Perth into the lead with a postage stamp corner shot.

Gold Coast responded with a double substitution bringing on Mitchell Bevan and Reuben Way for Koh Satake and Ben Halloran.

But it was livewire striker Chris Harold who brought his side level in the 82nd minute when he headed a Minniecon cross over keeper Tyson.

Earlier Harold had two one-on-ones with the keeper and had been unable to beat him, but this time there was nothing Tyson could do.

It seemed that the game must go to extra time when Minniecon got the ball with his back to goal on the edge of the

penalty area. Somehow he managed to wriggle round two defenders and get his shot away for the decisive goal.

Both teams deserve enormous credit for a high-quality game which shows just how much the absence of the Youth League has disrupted the careers of the next generation of potential Socceros.

Gold Coast and Perth also deserve credit for the fact that they both have only used senior players when they were coming back from injury and have consisted promoted young talent this season.

For Gold Coast this must be a huge boost after missing the senior grand final.

Congratulations all round.



The future looks bright for Gold Coast United after winning the NYL at its first attempt.
PHOTO: DANIEL FLIS

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MELBOURNE VICTORY



1

SYDNEY FC



1

Hyundai A-League 2010 Grand Final

Melbourne Victory 1 (Adrian Leijer 82')
Sydney FC 1 (Mark Bridge 63')
Sydney FC win 4-2 on Penalties

Etihad Stadium, Melbourne

Saturday, 20 March 2010

Referee: Strebrel Delovski

Assistant referees: Ben Wilson and Matthew Cream

Fourth official: Matthew Breeze

Crowd: 44,560

Melbourne Victory line-up: 1.Mitchell LANGERAK (gk), 2.Kevin MUSCAT (c), 5.Surat SUKHA (19. Evan BERGER 71'), 6.Leigh BROXHAM, 8.Grant BREBNER, 10.Archie THOMPSON (11.Marvin ANGULO 16'), 12.Rodrigo VARGAS, 16.Carlos HERNANDEZ, 21.Robbie KRUSE, 22.Nick WARD (25.Aziz BEHICH 76'), 23.Adrian LEIJER.

Substitutes Not Used: 20.Glen MOSS (gk), 17.Matthew FOSCHINI

Yellow Cards: Kevin MUSCAT 62', Evan BERGER 100'
Red Cards: Nil

Sydney FC line-up: 1.Clint BOLTON (gk), 2.Sebastian RYALL, 3.Stephan KELLER, 4.Simon COLOSIMO, 6.Karol KISEL, 8.Stuart MUSIALIK (5.Hayden FOXE 105'), 14. Alex BROSQUE (31. Joe GIBBS 116'), 15. Terry MCFLYNN (c), 16.Chris PAYNE (12.Shannon COLE), 19.Mark BRIDGE, 22. Sung-Hwan BYUN.

Substitutes Not Used: 7.Brendan GAN, 20.Ivan NECEVSKI (gk)

Yellow Cards: Sebastian Ryall 26', Mark Bridge 31', Simon COLOSIMO 51', Karol KISEL 84'
Red Cards: Nil

SWEET SYDNEY FC!

By Matt Galea

IT was billed as the biggest clash the Hyundai A-League had ever seen. Australia's two biggest cities, represented by Australia's two biggest football clubs, finally meeting on the biggest stage of Australian football, a titanic clash between two sides desperate to earn the title of the greatest in the nation. Sydney FC and Melbourne were finally going to meet in the A-League Grand Final.

We all know that there is little love lost between these two sides, and they have delighted us with some fantastic games of football this season. Who could forget Sydney's 3-0 historic win over the Victory at Etihad in October? Or the thrilling second leg of the Semi where Archie snatched the rights to host the Grand Final from Sydney's hands in the blink of an eye? These two sides were without doubt the best teams in the country, and the stage was set for a final epic battle for the ultimate boasting rights: The Hyundai A-League championship.

Both teams had their fair share of injury problems to cope with. Stevie Corica and John Aloisi, the man who sunk Victory's minor premiership hopes, were ruled out with a torn hamstring and Melbourne without Tom Pondeljak, who scored the only goal of last season's Grand Final against Adelaide. Both players are considered extremely important to their sides, and were missed throughout the match.

The atmosphere was electric. 7,000 Sydney FC supporters had made the trek down from New South Wales to will their team on, and they did their best to make themselves heard, a considerable achievement considering the noise being made by the other 38,000 Melbourne Victory supporters who were at their typical best, singing and urging their team on. Before the game had even kicked off, there was no mistaking how high the stakes were on this fine Melbourne evening.

And so the teams emerged from the tunnel to a resounding roar. The pre match pleasantries were dispensed with quickly enough, and we had blast off at Etihad stadium. The first half was a fierce contest. Both teams struggled to win the midfield game and impose themselves on the match, however no one could really find a break through.

The pivotal point of the half, and perhaps the match, came in the 16th minute. Archie Thompson wriggled past two Sydney FC challenges to get into the box, before succumbing to quite a serious knee injury when he seemed to jar his knee when trying to avoid a tackle. Thompson seemed to know as soon as he went down that his night was over, instantly calling for



SFC'S Steve Corica goes out on a winning note PHOTO: DANIEL FLIS

the physio, and it was soon apparent that Victory's marquee signing would take no further part in the night's proceedings. Without their star striker on the pitch, Melbourne Victory's task became a lot harder. Marvin Angulo came on to replace the injured striker, but struggled to live up to the expectations of replacing Victory's star man.

The best chance of the first half fell to Chris Payne late in the first half when Karol Kissel found the youngster with a terrific ball. From six yards out Payne struck the ball with real venom, but could not beat Mitch Langerak who made a superb save to tip the ball around his right hand post. Surat Sukha too had a good chance for Melbourne Victory when a loose ball fell to him just outside the box, but he was unable to test the keeper as his shot missed narrowly over the crossbar. The tackles were fast and furious in the first half, and the physicality of the game seemed to stifle the creation of any other real chances. To emphasize the point, Sydney were shown three yellow cards in the first half alone.

The second half continued in much the same vain. Carlos Hernandez was being very well marshaled by Musialik, severely restricting the Costa Rican's influence on the game, which had become vital without the exciting Archie Thompson around to influence the match any longer, and as such any influence Melbourne could have on the game was significantly reduced. With Hernandez's fantastic ability to control a game and unlock defenses severely stifled, Victory lacked that imagination which has been such a key factor in their success over the last two years. The game was certainly more open in the second half though, and that was demonstrated when Mark Bridge capitalized on an intelligent flick from

Alex Brosque, hitting a terrific strike which was fantastically saved by the impressive Langerak. From there the game ebbed and flowed from one goal to the other until the match seemed to explode in the 62nd minute.

Colosimo arguably should have been sent off after raking Nicky Ward with his boots after previously being shown a yellow card. After Victory's captain Muscat was instead booked for dissent, a quick free kick saw Carlos Hernandez with an opportunity to shoot from just outside the box. He hit the ball low and hard amongst a tree of legs, which caused Bolton to see it late, forcing him to save it with his legs, before the rebound fell to Roddy Vargas who duly put the ball into the back of the net sending Victory's fan into a joyous rapture.

That joy was short lived however as the linesman raised his flag to rule out the goal for offside, in a very brave, but correct, decision. That didn't stop the Victory from complaining. The defense switched off for a vital second and after a quickly taken free kick, Sydney found themselves at the other end of the pitch with a terrific chance to take the lead. Alex Brosque's cross took a cruel deflection of Surat Sukha, which sent the ball into a wild loop over Mitch Langerak who understandably failed to react quick enough to the sudden change in direction of the ball, leaving him flailing in despair as Mark Bridge put his chance away to put Sydney FC 1-0 up, becoming the first player to ever score in two A-League Grand Finals, leaving Melbourne Victory stunned.

It was no surprise then really that Victory looked defeated. Sydney were growing in confidence too and really took the game to Victory for the next

few minutes. The increasing pressure culminated in a tap in for Chris Payne, who somehow missed what was an absolute sitter. It was a terrible miss for Sydney, but a much needed eye opener for Melbourne.

Melbourne took their own chance in the 79th minute when they again looked to undo Sydney with a quick free kick. It was again Muscat who quickly whipped in a terrific ball from deep on the right wing, which found its way onto the head of Adrian Leijer, who directed the ball past the despairing Clint Bolton, who couldn't believe his defense had once again failed to be alive to the danger of a quickly taken free kick.

The goal lead to a thrilling finale, with Melbourne now seemingly taking the upper hand and putting all the pressure on Sydney FC, and really ought to have won the game when Aziz Behich inexplicably tried to header a ball that was mere inches off the ground in the six yard box, when he could quite have easily tapped it into an open net, giving Bolton little chance to recover. It wasn't to be however, and as a result, the fifth A-League Grand Final was destined to go to extra time.

Both sides were clearly tired as many players started to cramp up and extra time provided very few chances for the spectators to savor. Deep in the second half of Extra Time, Bridge finally found an opening, but was once again denied by Langerak, before Carlos Hernandez's attempt from a free kick was well held by Clint Bolton.

The referee blew his whistle, and the daunting prospect of a penalty shoot out was realized.

Taking place in front of the Blue and White Brigade, it would be Kevin Muscat who was tasked with taking Melbourne's first penalty, he simply had to score after Simon Colosimo coolly slotted his penalty past Langerak. Usually so cool, calm and collected from 11 yards out, Muscat failed to convert his penalty hitting, cruelly hitting the woodwork after sending Clint Bolton the wrong way. The despair on the captain's face was there for all to see as he solemnly marched back to the rest of his team.

Shannon Cole's attempt was magnificently saved by Langerak in a moment which looked to have potentially turned the shoot out on its head, but it wasn't to be as Sydney failed to miss another chance. After Angulo's poor spot kick was saved by Clint Bolton, who was making his final appearance for Sydney FC, it was Sung Hwan Byun who put away the decisive penalty, taking Sydney FC to their second A-League title, and becoming the first team to win an A-League Grand Final away from home.



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Superclasico takes centre stage

All eyes in Argentina will be on River Plate's veteran midfielder Marcelo Gallardo and the other 21 players who take the pitch to contest the Superclásico on Sunday at 16:30 local time, early Monday morning AEST time.

He is hoping to win his last Superclásico this weekend as he considers retirement. The deadball specialist has a decent scoring record against Boca Juniors and has netted free kicks in the last two league meetings between the great rivals. Having played just under 300 games for River, the 34-year-old knows exactly what victory in this Sunday's fixture would mean to fans of the club.

"The fans can be assured that I can only enjoy this game of football if we win. That is the only way to come away from a game happy, you will never enjoy it unless you have done your best. If I can scored then that is a bonus," he said.

Gallardo refused to say for sure exactly when he intends to hang up his boots but it is understood he is in talks with River president Daniel Passarella about extending his contract at the end of the season. "I can only say that this Superclásico will be one of my last, I think it's more likely that I play just one more rather than 10 more. That is why it's so important for me that we get the result."

After leaving River Plate for the first time back in 1999 Gallardo had four successful years at Monaco playing alongside the likes of Ludovic Giuly, Rafael Márquez and David Trézeguet. During this time in France the midfielder picked up league and cup winners medals as well as being named French League Footballer of the Year. Despite playing some big Champions League nights and clocking up nearly 50 caps for his country Gallardo still revels in the atmosphere of a Superclásico.

"The game is such a special occasion, for the players on the pitch and the fans in the stadium it is truly unique." Another factor making Sunday's game against

Boca in La Bombonera so special for Gallardo is that it will be his 300th game for River.

After Boca Juniors' 3-0 humiliation last weekend against Tigre, embattled Boca coach Abel Alves ventured the following. "We can't go any lower," he said.

Argentina's two most popular clubs, Boca Juniors and River Plate are both having miserable seasons, stuck near the bottom of the standings in the Clausura championship. Both clubs have also failed to qualify for the Copa Libertadores, South America's most prestigious club championship. Of the two, Boca is in worse shape. Juan Román Riquelme has also hinted it may be his last Superclásico though in his typical style, has kept it away from the media.

Boca is winless in its last seven games, and has eight points in nine matches. A loss on Sunday at Boca's La Bombonera stadium (the Chocolate Box) would further anger Boca's demanding fans. It could also drop Boca into last place in the 20-club league. River Plate has 12 points and, combined with Boca's total, has the same number of points as league leader Independiente—20. River Plate coach Leonardo Astrada has little sympathy for Boca's fate.

"We don't have to let them (Boca) get up," Astrada said. "They are half-way down and we have to finish off the knockout."

Two Boca stars have their careers on the line—striker Martin Palermo and midfielder Juan Roman Riquelme. Both are on contracts that expire in June, and widely circulated reports suggest the two stars can't stand each other. River and Boca are not the only "Big Five" clubs in Argentina going through problems. Only Independiente is in the top half of the standings. The rest are buried: River is in 11th place, Racing is in 14th, San Lorenzo in 15th and Boca is 17th. Alves could be removed at any moment as

coach, but that seems unlikely to change things.

Alves, then the reserve-team coach, took over in January after Alfio Basile quit following a loss to River Plate. Basile took over for Carlos Ischia, who quit nine months ago after Boca was knocked out of the final 16 of the Copa Libertadores.

As such a high-profile clásico takes centre-stage, dividing and stopping pretty much all of Argentina, the Copa Libertadores which this years boasts without Boca Juniors nor River Plate has had mixed results. Corinthians, bidding for the title for the first time with former Brazil World Cup winners Ronaldo and Roberto Carlos in their team, went ahead in the 41st minute of the Group One match in Asuncion when Ronaldo tapped in from a corner.

A Ronaldo strike gave Corinthians a 1-0 win over Cerro Porteno but Flamengo went down 2-1 to Universidad de Chile on a night of mixed fortunes for Brazilian sides in the Libertadores Cup on Wednesday.

Flamengo, who made a lightning visit to Santiago because of fears of another earthquake in Chile, must have wished they had not travelled at all.

Midfielder Felipe Seymour hit the winner in the 55th minute to put "The U" top of Group Eight, a point ahead of the Brazilian champions.

Universidad de Chile gave their fans in the 25,000 crowd on Wednesday the joy of victory to distract them from the devastation of the last fortnight. Striker Eduardo Vargas headed the Chilean side in front two minutes before halftime. Flamengo, whose striker Adriano hit the bar early on, equalised through Rodrigo Alvim in the 51st minute but they hardly had time to celebrate before falling behind again to Seymour's strike.

Another Chilean side, Universidad

Católica, secured a point in the same group with a 0-0 draw away to FC Caracas in Venezuela. Fellow Brazilian side, three-times South American champions Sao Paulo crushed Club Nacional of Asunción 3-0 to snatch the lead in their group and eliminate the Paraguayan side in the Libertadores Cup on Thursday. Sao Paulo, who had beaten Nacional 2-0 in their previous group match in Asuncion, went ahead after half an hour.

Dagoberto, Leo Lima and Washington scored the goals in a 25-minute spell spanning halftime to leave Sao Paulo top of Group Two with nine points from four matches, a point ahead of Colombia's Once Caldas.

Dagoberto, lurking beyond the left post, rose to a right cross from midfielder Hernanes to send a looping header that dipped inside the top far corner of the net. Leo Lima tapped in the second three minutes later and Washington scored the third nine minutes after halftime when the ball ran loose after keeper German Caffa blocked Richarlyson's run into the box.

Mexico's Monterrey, held 2-2 at home by Once Caldas in the early hours of Thursday morning, are third with five points. Paraguayan champions Nacional have no points. Internacional of Porto Alegre, the last Brazilian side to win the trophy in 2006, were held 0-0 by Uruguay's Cerro in a Group Five match played in the Uruguayan city of Rivera.

About 20,000 Inter fans crossed the border from the southern Brazilian city of Porto Alegre to boost the crowd at the Atilio Paiva stadium to around 28,000 but ended up jeering Inter's Uruguayan coach Jorge Fossati. Cerro lead the group with seven points, two more than Inter, after three matches. Ecuadorean champions Deportivo Quito have one point and Emelec, also from Ecuador, none after two games.

Uruguay's Racing drew 0-0 at Colombian champions Independiente Medellín, who had two payers sent off, to remain in second place in Group One. Racing are three points behind one of the title favourites, Corinthians of Brazil, after three matches. Medellín are a point further back. Striker Cesar Valoyes was sent off in the 66th minute for a second yellow card offence and substitute Lewis Ochoa was dismissed for diving, also a second booking, one minute from time.



Adriano with Flamengo: His presence not enough for a win away in Chile.

Balkans Scene with Alex Milic

Serbia Partizan has cut the gap at the top of the table to just two points as they easily overcame bottom placed Cukaricki 3:0 while league leaders Red Star suffered their second loss of the season going down 2:1 away to Metalac.

Red Star thought they had secured a point when Bogdanovic converted a penalty in the 89th minute but it was Metalac who would celebrate a famous victory when Simovic netted in the 94th minute from a blistering counter attack.

Partizan took full advantage of their rivals slip up, easily dealing for Cukaricki by three goals.



Davidov, Cleo and Petrovic where the scorers for the 'gravediggers.'

In other games Borac added three vital points in securing their first flight status in a 1:0 win away to Jagodina thanks to a goal from Macedonia U/21 international

Spirovski. Javor and Spartak shared the points in a goalless draw, BSK thrashed Hajduk 3:0, Smederevo defeated Vojvodina 1:0 and Ofk Beograd continues to climb the table as they overcame relegations battlers Napredak away 2:1.

Club Focus: Red Star Belgrade
The former European Champions came into the season with a squad that was going to struggle to compete against teams like Partizan and Vojvodina.



Hungry to prove they have what it takes to be a competitive team, the side has taken the league by storm. Full of spirit and determination under manager Vladimir Petrovic a former club legend they surprised many when they only lost one game (against rivals Partizan) at the start of the winter break.

The side has won many admirers, especially amongst the clubs fans who have come in numbers to show their support home and away. At the beginning of the season 10,000 season tickets were sold, which only goes to show how much the

fans believe and have faith in the clubs rebirth.

Top Scorer: Dejan Lekic - Captain: Nikola Lazetic - Manager: Vladimir Petrovic

Croatia
Hajduk fans will be dissappointed yet again as their side lost to Lokomotiva 2:1 and are now just one point ahead of Lokomotiva. League leaders Dinamo will have the opportunity to go eight points clear at the top when they face Slaven Belupo as second placed Cibalia only managed to draw against relegations Strugglers Varteks 1:1. In other games Sibenik is pilling the pressure on Cibalia after defeating Rijeka away 1:0.



Nothing can go right for Hajduk.

Bosnia
Top of the table clash between leaders Borac Banja Luka and third placed Siroki Brijeg ended goalless in a fairly poor encounter.

Both sides will have to be satisfied with the points being shared which will now give second placed Zeljeznicar a chance to cut the lead from Borac to one point as they take on fourth placed Zrinjski who have an opportunity to leap their rivals from Sarajevo if they win in the second derby match of the round.

Velez Mostar suffered a shock defeat to bottom place Laktasi 1:3. The win for Laktasi gives the club a great chance to pull off a remarkable comeback and stay in the top league. They are now only five points away from the safe zone.

BOSNIA		
	P	Pts
1Borac Banja Luka	19	37
2Zeljeznicar Sarajevo	18	34
3Siroki Brijeg	19	33
4Zrinjski Mostar	18	31
5Sarajevo	18	31
6Velez Mostar	19	30
7Leotar Trebinje	19	29
8Olimpik Sarajevo	18	25
9Travnik	18	24
10Zvijezda Gradacac	19	23
11Rudar Prijedor	19	22
12Slavija Sarajevo	18	22
13Modrica Maxima	19	21
14Celik Zenica	19	21
15Sloboda Tuzla	19	20
16Laktasi	19	17

CROATIA			
	P	GD	Pts
1 Dinamo	20	+48	46
2 Cibalia	21	+21	41
3 Šibenik	21	+2	39
4 Karlovac	21	+9	37
5 Hajduk	21	+17	35
6 Lokomotiva	21	+1	34
7 Osijek	21	+8	33
8 Slaven Belupo	20	-1	31
9 Rijeka	21	+1	26
10 Zadar	21	-11	24
11 Inter Zaprešić	21	-9	21
12 Varteks	21	-13	21
13 Medimurje	21	-19	21
14 Istra 1961	21	-14	20
15 Zagreb	21	-9	19
16 Croatia Sesvete	21	-31	11

SERBIA			
	P	GD	Pts
1. Crvena zvezda	19	35:10	49
2. Partizan	19	39:10	47
3. Spartak	19	24:14	33
4. Vojvodina	19	29:16	30
5. OFK Beograd	19	24:20	30
6. Metalac	19	15:21	27
7. Smederevo	19	20:22	26
8. Javor	19	14:14	25
9. Jagodina	19	21:22	25
10. Borac	19	15:26	22
11. BSK	19	16:21	22
12. Mladi radnik	18	12:20	20
13. Napredak	19	18:26	17
14. Hajduk	19	18:28	17
15. Rad	18	18:26	15
16. Cukaricki	19	14:36	12

Gooners are top dogs for 24 hours



ENGLAND
Arsenal shot back to the summit of the Premier League table

when they defeated West Ham 2-0 on Saturday, despite conceding a penalty and losing defender Thomas Vermaelen to a red card.

Both Chelsea and Manchester United had the chance on Sunday to reclaim the all-important top spot, but the Gunners basked in the limelight for at least 24 hours as their surge for their title continued with their sixth consecutive victory. Denilson opened the scoring five minutes into the encounter with a superb shot low and hard into the corner of the Hammers' net, but the title-chasing Gunners lost Vermaelen when he was sent off for a clumsy challenge on Guillermo Franco in the box just before the break. But Vermaelen had his keeper Manuel Almunia to thank for preventing a double blow to his side, with the keeper diving full-stretch to his left to thwart a powerful penalty from West Ham's Alessandro Diamanti.

The Hammers failed to utilise the numerical advantage in the second period and Arsenal sealed the points when they earned a penalty of their own, when Matthew Upson handled in the box, and Cesc Fabregas slotted home the spot kick to send his side top.

Hull City have eight games to emerge from the relegation zone after they conceded two goals in the final two minutes against doomed Portsmouth to throw the club's hopes of survival into panic mode.

Iain Dowie replaced Phil Brown this week as the new gaffer charged with saving City in its remaining games, but Dowie had the worst possible start when his club surrendered a 2-1 lead to lose to Portsmouth who restored some pride for their embattled supporters.

Pompey is rooted to the bottom of the table as a result of their nine-point deduction for entering administration, but they registered a spirited performance.

Caleb Folan gave Hull the lead when he deflected a Craig Fagan shot past David James, but Pompey levelled soon after when Tommy Smith scored his first goal for the club.

Folan scored his second to give City hope of a valuable three points, but with just two minutes remaining, Jamie O'Hara and Nwankwo Kanu turned the match on its head by netting the equaliser and winner, respectively.

Hugo Rodallega ensured there was an interesting end to an otherwise dour encounter between Wigan Athletic and Burnley, when he scored a 90th minute winner to give Wigan all three points.

Elsewhere, Sunderland moved ten points clear of the relegation zone with a 3-1 victory over Birmingham City, which ended City's faint hopes of securing a European spot.

In the race for the fourth Champions League place, Tottenham Hotspur moved four points clear of Liverpool, who played Manchester United on Sunday, with a 2-1 win over ten-man Stoke City, while Everton defeated Bolton 2-0 and



Arsenal survive Thomas Vermaelen's dismissal to beat West Ham 2-0 and go top of the table.

Aston Villa and Wolverhampton Wanderers shared the spoils in a 2-2 draw.



ITALY
Inter Milan's surge towards a fifth successive Serie A title hit a stumbling block on

Saturday when Jose Mourinho's side was held to a 1-1 draw with Palermo.

AC Milan had the chance on Sunday to leapfrog their city rivals into top place on the table when they took on Napoli at the San Siro.

On the back of their mid-week Champions League triumph over Chelsea, Inter started brightly when Diego Milito gave his side the lead from the penalty spot after ten minutes.

But Edinson Cavani equalised 14 minutes later and both sides failed to find the elusive winner.

Roma closed the gap between themselves and Inter to four points courtesy of a 4-2 win over Udinese.

Roma, in third place, are still firmly in the title race after a Mirko Vucinic hat-trick and a Luca Toni single did the damage against Udinese.

In Saturday's other Serie A fixture, Fiorentina revived their hopes of European qualification with a comfortable 3-0 win over Genoa.



SPAIN
Real Madrid moved three points clear at the top of the Primera

Division courtesy of a 3-1 win over Sporting Gijon, but it was far from easy for the title chasing side from the Spanish capital.

The victory maintained Real's perfect home record at the Bernabeu, but the home team started poorly as they failed to produce any notable chances in the first period and went behind to a 53rd minute David Barral strike.

With a hock loss on the cards, Madrid was sparked into action and within

four minutes they were 2-1 in front with Rafael van der Vaart and Xabi Alonso grabbing a quick-fire double to put their side ahead.

Gonzalo Higuain completed the comeback with his 20th goal of the season with 22 minutes remaining to secure Madrid's 14th home victory at the Bernabeu this term.

After being dumped out of the Champions League by CSKA Moscow mid-week, Sevilla suffered another European blow as they lost 2-0 to Espanyol to dent their hopes of European football next season.

Elsewhere, Deportivo La Coruna's European hopes were also dealt a blow when they succumbed to the same score line against Valladolid.

Getafe and Athletic Bilbao drew 2-2 in a fiery clash where both sides were reduced to ten men, while Xerez kept their slim hopes of La Liga survival in tact with a 2-1 victory over Tenerife.



Real Madrid's Ronaldo in action against Sporting Gijon



GERMANY
Bundesliga leaders Bayern Munich suffered their first defeat in the

league since September as they went down 2-1 away to Eintracht Frankfurt.

Goal sneak Miroslav Klose gave Bayern the lead early on, but the home side

took control of the game and hit Bayern with a late blow, scoring two goals inside the last three minutes through Juvhel Tsoumou and Martin Fenin to secure victory.

Bayern are two points clear of second-placed Schalke at the top of the league but Schalke had the chance to go top on Sunday.

Third-placed Bayer Leverkusen, who are three points behind Munich, failed to take advantage of Bayern's loss when they were humbled 3-0 by Borussia Dortmund through a Lucas Barrios brace and a Dimitar Rangelov single.

Werder Bremen bounced back from their Europa League exit midweek to secure a 3-2 victory over Bochum, while Stuttgart also rebounded from their European exit, with a 2-0 victory over Hannover after their midweek Champions League elimination.

In other games, Freiburg ended a 12 game winless streak with a 1-0 victory over Mainz, while relegation threatened Nurnberg earned a vital point against Hoffenheim as the teams played out a scoreless draw.

BUNDESLIGA

	P	GD	PTS
1 Bayern Munich	27	30	56
2 Schalke 04	26	22	54
3 Bayer Leverkusen	27	28	53
4 Borussia Dortmund	27	13	48
5 Werder Bremen	27	21	45
6 Hamburg	26	16	43
7 VfB Stuttgart	27	4	38
8 Eintracht Frankfurt	27	-4	38
9 Mainz	27	-4	38
10 Wolfsburg	26	3	37
11 TSG Hoffenheim	27	3	33
12 Borussia M'gladbach	27	-12	31
13 Cologne	27	-11	28
14 VfL Bochum	27	-20	27
15 Nuremberg	27	-19	25
16 Hannover 96	27	-21	23
17 SC Freiburg	27	-24	23
18 Hertha Berlin	26	-25	15
Dortmund 3-0 Leverkusen Frankfurt 2-1 B Munich			
Nuremberg 0-0 TSG Hoffenheim			
SC Freiburg 1-0 Mainz Stuttgart 2-0 Hannover 96			
Bremen 3-2 VfL Bochum			
Cologne 1-1 Borussia M'gladbach			

EPL

	P	GD	PTS
1 Arsenal	31	40	67
2 Man Utd	30	46	66
3 Chelsea	29	42	64
4 Tottenham	30	26	55
5 Liverpool	30	19	51
6 Man City	28	17	50
7 Aston Villa	29	17	50
8 Everton	30	6	45
9 Birmingham	30	-3	44
10 Fulham	29	0	38
11 Stoke	30	-6	36
12 Sunderland	30	-6	34
13 Blackburn	29	-17	34
14 Bolton	31	-20	32
15 Wigan	31	-30	31
16 Wolves	30	-24	28
17 West Ham	30	-14	27
18 Burnley	31	-33	24
19 Hull	30	-35	24
20 Portsmouth	30	-25	13

Arsenal 2-0 West Ham
Everton 2-0 Bolton
Stoke 1-2 Tottenham
Sunderland 3-1 Birmingham
Wigan 1-0 Burnley

A Villa 2-2 Wolves
Portsmouth 3-2 Hull

SPL

	P	GD	PTS
1 Rangers	28	48	67
2 Celtic	29	27	57
3 Dundee Utd	29	6	49
4 Motherwell	30	6	48
5 Hibernian	29	8	47
6 Hearts	30	-5	40
7 St Johnstone	28	-7	34
8 Aberdeen	29	-10	31
9 Hamilton	29	-18	27
10 Kilmarnock	29	-16	26
11 St Mirren	29	-15	24
12 Falkirk	29	-24	21

Aberdeen 2-2 Dundee Utd
Celtic 3-0 St Johnstone
Hamilton 2-2 Falkirk
Hearts 2-1 Hibernian

SERIE A

	P	GD	PTS
1 Inter Milan	29	28	60
2 AC Milan	28	21	58
3 Roma	29	18	56
4 Palermo	29	6	47
5 Juventus	28	6	45
6 Sampdoria	28	1	44
7 Genoa	29	0	42
8 Fiorentina	29	5	41
9 Napoli	28	2	41
10 Cagliari	28	5	39
11 Bari	28	0	38
12 Parma	28	-8	37
13 Chievo	28	-2	35
14 Bologna	28	-5	35
15 Udinese	29	-8	31
16 Catania	28	-2	31
17 Lazio	28	-10	26
18 Livorno	28	-20	24
19 Atalanta	28	-17	22
20 Siena	28	-20	22

Fiorentina 3-0 Genoa
Palermo 1-1 Inter Milan
Roma 4-2 Udinese

LA LIGA

	P	GD	PTS
1 Real Madrid	27	52	68
2 Barcelona	26	48	65
3 Valencia	26	13	47
4 Sevilla	27	8	44
5 Mallorca	26	10	43
6 Athletic Bilbao	27	4	42
7 Deportivo	27	0	42
8 Getafe	27	2	37
9 Villarreal	26	1	36
10 Atletico Madrid	26	1	34
11 Almeria	26	-5	33
12 Sporting Gijon	27	-6	32
13 Osasuna	26	-3	31
14 Espanyol	27	-15	31
15 Malaga	26	-3	27
16 Racing	26	-13	27
17 Real Zaragoza	26	-18	26
18 Valladolid	27	-18	23
19 Tenerife	27	-29	23
20 Xerez	27	-29	18

A Bilbao 2-2 Getafe
Espanyol 2-0 Sevilla
Xerez 2-1 Tenerife

Deportivo 0-2 Valladolid
R Madrid 3-1 S Gijon



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Victorian champions of Australia

This weekend Melbourne Victory became (narrowly failed to become) champion of Australia for the third time with its win (loss) in the A-League Grand final over (to) Sydney FC.

Over the years since 1960 several Victorian clubs have claimed bragging rights as champion of Australia in a range of competitions including the Ampol Cup, the Australia Cup, the National Soccer League (NSL) and the National League Cup. There were other interstate challenge matches and an unofficial championship in 1976 and of course the interstate carnivals involving state teams. Finally many of the communities which supported the game in Australia had their own restricted championships in which Victorian teams performed with distinction.

In 1960 JUST led the way in a four-state Ampol Cup tournament involving Hellenic from Queensland, Juventus from South Australia and Northern New South Wales team Wallsend in a round robin. JUST accounted for Hellenic by 4-2, Juventus 2-1 and drew 3-3 with Wallsend. Wallsend was the surprise NSW representative having overcome Sydney's top team St George Budapest to claim the spot in the final tournament.

After the Australian Soccer Federation was formed the Australia Cup became the premier interstate tournament in 1962. The following year in an all-Victorian affair Slavia beat Polonia three-two at Olympic Park. Slavia only scraped into the national competition in fourth place in the Victorian State League, but it beat JUST in a seven-goal thriller, then APIA from Sydney by three-one and Juventus from Adelaide two-nil in the semi-final. The final was scoreless but in the replay, Slavia won thanks to former Welsh international Des Palmer who scored hat-trick. After a decade at Swansea City, Palmer arrived in Australia from Derby County, and went on to play for Yugal and Adamstown in Sydney.

The following year, 1963, George Cross beat APIA by three-two in the



Hugh Gunn is nearly collected by Croatia goalie Mirko Kovacek as he punches clear versus Juventus on 22 August 1970.

Photo: Laurie Schwab collection.



Melbourne Knights' Mark Viduka celebrates his hat trick against South Melbourne in the 1994-95 NSL finals series. Ollie Pondeljak is the first to congratulate him. PHOTO: JOHN PUNSHON



Norm Hobson deflects a shot for a corner for George Cross. PHOTO: UWE KUESSNER. LES SHORROCK COLLECTION, DEAKIN UNIVERSITY LIBRARY.

final, also at Olympic Park in front of 15,000 supporters. Archie Campbell scored the winner in extra time to the delight of the crowd. The George Cross team in the final was: Norm Hobson, John McDaid, Bobby Adams, Tom McPherson, John Brown, Archie Campbell, David Goldie, Eddie Sacco, Don Hodgson, Hans Petersen, Billy Copeland.

The next Victorian success came in 1967 when Melbourne Hungaria downed APIA by four-three. Irish internationalist Bill Walsh was coach that year, taking the team to the state league title for the first and only time. In the final of the Australia Cup, Atti Abonyi, who was to play with the Socceroos for a decade including the World Cup in Germany, scored a hat-trick. The 1967 Hungaria squad in the state league included Henry Surma, Tony Gregal, Bill McGowan, Ian Shanks, Alistair Scott, Bob Connolly, Peter Kurta, Atti Abonyi, Frank Stoffels, Bill Deszofi, Tom Fowler, and Col Myers.

The Australia Cup came to an end in 1968 with Hakoah from Sydney crushing Hakoah from Melbourne by six goals to one over the two-leg final.

In 1971 Melbourne Croatia won the Australian Ampol Cup. In the final it beat Western Suburbs from Sydney by three goals to one in Sydney after drawing one-all in Melbourne. The highlight of the away leg was a Billy McIntyre hat-trick. The Croatia squad that stellar year included Mike Kovacek, Ray Wixey, Hugh Gunn, Bill McArthur, Brian Williams, Horst Rau, Ibbo Hadiavdic, Jimmy Kondarios, Mike Kuzilek, Jimmy Mackay, Billy Vojtek, Ivan Turicar, Alan Clark, and Joe Rahjer. The team was coached by Vic Janczyk.

Then there was a gap until 1976 when South Melbourne Hellas, having won the Victorian Ampol Cup and the state league defeated St George-Budapest from Sydney by three-two again over two legs in what the clubs considered an unofficial Australian championship. Jimmy Mackay, Peter Ollerton, Jim Armstrong and Duncan Cummings were among Hellas's stars that year.

The NSL kicked off in 1977 but it was not till 1984 when the competition was split into two conferences that Victorian teams came out on top. South Melbourne won the National Conference of the NSL in 1984 and finished on top of the ladder in 1985. In the two-leg play-off for the national title in 1984, South Melbourne beat Sydney Olympic by two goals to

Ampol Cup

1960 JUST (Victoria), Hellenic (Q), Juventus (SA) and Wallsend (NNSW) in a round robin

Australia Cup

1963 Slavia (Victoria) 3 Polonia (Victoria) 2 Olympic Park
1964 George Cross (Victoria) 3 APIA 2 Olympic Park
1967 Melbourne Hungaria 4 APIA 3 Olympic Park

Ampol Cup

1971 Croatia Melbourne 4 Western Suburbs 2 Two legs

Unofficial championship

1976 South Melbourne 3 St George 2 Two legs

Victorian National Soccer League champions

1984 South Melbourne Hellas (Southern Division)
1985 Brunswick United Juventus (Southern Division)
1990-91 South Melbourne Hellas
1994-95 Melbourne Knights
1995-96 Melbourne Knights
1997-98 South Melbourne Hellas
1998-99 South Melbourne Hellas

Victorian National Cup winners

1990 South Melbourne 4 Sydney Olympic 1
1993 Heidelberg United 2 Parramatta Eagles 1
1995 Melbourne Knights 6 Heidelberg United 0
1996 South Melbourne 3 Newcastle Breakers 1
1997 Collingwood Warriors 1 Marconi-Fairfield 0

one, home and away. Charlie Egan got both goals at Olympic Park and Oscar Crino and John Yzendoorn scored at Barton Park. The following year Brunswick United Juventus won the play-off beating Sydney City one-nil home and away. Fabio Incantalupo contributed both goals. In 1986, though Brunswick topped the ladder, it was Adelaide City which won the National Conference top-five series. In 1987 the NSL reverted to a single division with 14 clubs.

In subsequent years the Victorian powerhouses, South Melbourne Hellas and Melbourne Knights, had great success in the National League. South Melbourne was champion in 1990-91 and again in 1997-98 and 1998-99, while the Knights, led by Andrew Marth, Steve Horvat and a young Mark Viduka, won back-to-back titles in 1994-95 and 1995-96. In the 1990s South Melbourne (twice), Heidelberg United, Melbourne Knights and Collingwood Warriors won the National Cup.



Fabio Incantalupo playing for Bulleen in his Gold Medal winning year of 1991.

PHOTO: JOE MONTEMURRO



Danny Wright (left) and Mehmet Durakovic are ecstatic after South Melbourne's win on penalties in the 1990-91 NSL Grand Final. PHOTO: JOHN PUNSHON

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KAT'S CORNER

With Peter Katholos

Australian international with 25 caps, Australian Player of the Year, winner of 4 NSL championships, 3 NSL Cups, 557 first grade games, 97 goals from 1976-1996. Played for St George, Sydney Olympic, Apia, Marconi, Melita Eagles and Larissa (Greece). Rated as one of the most technically gifted players ever produced in Australia. Now involved with player development and player management. www.technikfootball.com

Grand Final
WELL, no doubt everyone will have an opinion on the Grand Final between Melbourne Victory and Sydney FC but I must start and say the ground for Australia's masterpiece was a disgrace. What is happening there when they re-turf the ground during the week of the Grand Final ? Are they serious?

The game was a typical final, played with plenty of passion, lots of crunching tackles and some great scoring opportunities missed by both sides. In the end, Sydney FC won the honours by virtue of the penalty shoot-out, and perhaps for the good of the game and the competition it probably wasn't such a bad thing that the mantle went elsewhere rather than Melbourne again!
I thought that Kisel, Brosque, Colosimo, Bolton and Bridge all put in good performances for Sydney FC, whilst Hernandez and Vargas rose to the occasion for

the Victory. The referee managed to let a few go, and some players were lucky not to receive red cards!
Again, a great crowd and atmosphere, with lots of drama. Although some people were expecting a bigger crowd, football in Australia has still come a long way since the introduction of the A-League.

Mark Viduka

Great to see Mark Viduka back in Australia, and I have great deal of respect for his football talent and what he has achieved in football. Some of the goals he has scored are absolutely fantastic at the highest level and I believe he was one of the best strikers in the world during his time. You heard me right, he had finesse, skill, good control, scored goals with head and both feet, could hold the ball up, and was evident possessed a great football mind. What else could you ask for in a top striker?
But, the thing that is most impressive

about Mark Viduka is that he is humble and not big headed. He's a modest and down to earth bloke, and that is what makes him even more special. He would let his football do the talking, and that would speak volumes. Dukes, hold your head up high, you have done Australia very proud - a fantastic footballer who is even greater as a human being. If he decides to give the A-League a crack, I am sure we would all be grateful for the opportunity to see him strut his stuff on home turf. I, for one, wouldn't hold it against him. I'm sure many of the kids who have only watched him play club football on TV would love the chance to see him in the flesh. There's no doubt in my mind he would pull at least an extra 5,000 through any turnstile.

Simon Colosimo

What a tower of strength at the back for Sydney FC, who has being the catalyst to their success this season. He is quick, has a great mind, is a good organizer,

a good defender and a great leader at the back. I hear that he had a call from Pim Verbeek to keep himself playing, and will know head to Korea on a loan deal. Let's face it, Colosimo could be a vital option who has played himself into the frame as a real chance for the World Cup selection to South Africa. We've got Lucas Neill and Craig Moore as the experienced defenders in the squad, but



Simon Colosimo strokes the ball home for SFC in the GF

who else can fill their boots if either of them gets injured? Simon Colosimo, it's great to see you back in top form, and let's hope Pim Verbeek thinks along the same lines as Kat!

Nick Carle

Great to see Nick Carle playing well again for Crystal Palace on a regular basis. I believe Pim Verbeek has also been very impressed with Nick's form, and he is another player that is a must have player in the World Cup squad. Nick provides the option of creativity and something different than the other midfielders in the squad. There has always been questions surrounding Nick's work-rate, or supposed lack of it, but midfielders don't last a very long time in the huff and puff of the English game, unless they pull their weight. I think Nick has gone a very long to dispel any of those misconceptions.

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THE KATSA

With George Katsamboukas

MELBOURNE Town was abuzz this week with the lead up to the A-league Grand Final, where the Melbourne and Sydney camps prepared to do battle for bragging rights of being Numero Uno.

As both camps trained hard, Foxtel's Andy Harper was also doing the hard yards, preparing for his call of The Big Match, with Thesaurus at the ready, I am waiting for his next descriptive pearly from the Grand Final, surely he won't beat the best thus far, Beautiful X 5.
The FFA and FFV Club Powerbrokers were also busy this week as they had to get their Pin Striped Suits ready for the big occasion.
Over to Jack's Place we go where the Cannons hosted the Thunder on a balmy Friday night, and the conditions were more favourable towards C Orona, as opposed to J Walker.

The Good Folk from the House of Darebin, recently moved to the Boulevard of Broken Dreams, gave ex- Queensland Roar custodian Griffin McMaster the green light to join the Cannons, even though the transfer window had already closed for the VPL.
How this can occur can only be answered by the Good Folk from the FFV, but it has the potential to set a precedent for other clubs to justify transferring players outside of the prescribed transfer windows.
After an impressive start from the Thunder, where they found themselves 1-0 up early on in the piece, the Cannons then banged away three of their own, to secure a Happy End and 3 points.
Katsa's BOG goes to Cannons Striker Jerry Karphe, who once again ran amok. Dandenong Thunder's unsteady start to the season gives new meaning to the

term "Hero to Zero" having finished 12 points clear on top last season after the Home and Away Rounds, and Runners Up in the Grand Final, they now find themselves having only one Happy End out of Four Matches.
Time will tell as to whether Dandenong Thunder can turn their season around, however injuries to key players has not helped their cause.
With the remainder of the FFV Leagues kicking off in under a month, the Pop Stars who missed out on getting gigs with VPL Clubs are busy putting themselves about, with about as much "vigor" as Katsa's associates at Melbourne's finest Over 28's venues.
They have already downgraded their Vehicle of choice from a BMW to a Subaru, and from G-Star Raw jeans, to Industrie.
Chin up lads, there are club Power-

brokers in the lower Leagues who may accommodate your Wage demands, just get your spin right, and whooska, you will be travelling.
Over to Katsa's Mailbag we go, where Lara from Sydney writes:

Dear Katsa,
I am in desperate need of advice as I have been having a torrid time of late with Sportsmen.
I have yet to go out with a Soccer Player, as in the past I have only gone out with men who played Sports that used smaller Balls than Soccer.
These relationships have not worked out and a friend of mine suggested that I should date a Soccer Player, as they have a certain aura about them, and they know how to treat a girl well.
Should I take the advice from my Girlfriend, or steer clear of Soccer Players?

Dear Lara,
Your Girlfriend is right about Soccer Players, they do know how to treat a girl well and they do have a certain aura about them.
I would really like to help you out as I know many of these types, however, so as to speed things up, I was wondering if you had a photo of yourself lying around so as I could show it to some of the guys, that way I can see who would be interested in going out with you.
If you do not have a recent photo, one from a few years ago will do, and good luck with the search.
Until next week

This is Katsa - just as you have known him.

And remember, keep your friends close and your Club Powerbrokers closer.



BOO'S WORLD

With Mark Boric



Not often does this column get any written feedback so I thought I'd look at the letter of Slater Hater of Mordialloc in last week's In Off The Post.

I continue to stand by my claim that Andy Harper and Michael Cockerill are the worst of the Fox Sports A-League commentary team. Robbie Slater's analytical efforts may not be worth much, and he shoulda done better quite a few times, but there is no way he is more annoying than Monotone Mike and Harp-on.

Maybe it is his role on Matchday Saturday, in particular his report with Mark Bosnich, that makes Slater more tolerable. It's almost the best thing on tv at the moment, certainly of all the shows that don't come with warnings about nudity. Luckily the boring duo never get to marr it like they do Fox Sports FC.

Slater may not be the greatest, but how is he worse than Harper? Slater may stick to the old cliches and point out shots that weren't hit

with enough conviction, but that has to be better than Harper's attempts to make himself sound intelligent. Stick your spawning salmon up your clacker, though there is some amusement from when he tries to come up with new phrases and gets tounge-tied. The highlight of which was his epic "it's like taking baby from a candy!"

Well the HAL Grand Final was a bit of a let down. Not just the result as I'm not the most devoted Victory supporter (come make me an offer Melbourne Heart), but for mine there were too many players on show who can only be categorised as duds. A showpiece game like this cannot feature so many out and out duds. Chris Payne showed he is useless when isn't allowed to punch the ball into the net. Aziz Behich couldn't tap home from two yards and then struggled to get another kick even with his fresh legs. And then there is the daddy of them all, the Mar-quee Dud of the League if you will,

Nick Ward. No wonder the Etihad Stadium surface is so poor, with all the headless chickens that run on it making it nothing more than a giant chicken coop.

On Victorian Premier League front, two of the minus teams still haven't hit zero on the table. This week Melbourne Knights will host Richmond in the closest they will get to a Croatian Derby until/if St.Albans get promoted as Richmond could field Stjepan Gal, Jesse Krncevic, Antun Kovacic, Tom Milardovic, Tom Uskok and Daniel Visevic in their line-up, with Mate Eterovic unavailable through a long-term back injury.

Oakleigh Cannons have done a Melbourne Victory/Nick Mrdja to sign Brisbane Roar keeper Griffin McMaster. No one has sacked a coach, yet.

Easternat protesters on Friday started a riot in Oakleigh which led to the Bob Jane Stadium there being trashed and looted in retaliation to

his involvement in the Easternats not going ahead. Makes you wonder why they would target a small Oakleigh franchise when there is a place called Bob Jane Stadium? Maybe it is because nobody goes there anymore...

Never a truer word spoken than Katsa's comment last week about shin pad sizes and pop stars. Whilst I agree with the FFV directive to stamp out the more ridiculous excuses for leg protection, how about they start with giving more than an automatic one week suspension for a career ending, leg-shattering tackle....



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KRNCEVIC'S CRUNCHLINES

With Eddie Krncevic

Australian soccer legend, Eddie Krncevic represented the Socceroos 35 times and scored 17 goals. He played professionally in Europe for Dinamo Zagreb (Croatia), MSV Duisberg (Germany), Mulhouse (France) and Anderlecht, FC Liege, Aalst and Charleroi in Belgium.

Greetings football fans and welcome to another dose of Krncevic's Crunchlines.

SPECIAL SFC
Congratulations are in order to Sydney FC for taking out the HAL Grand Final over Melbourne Victory on weekend.

It wasn't a classic match by any stretch of the imagination, but it certainly was an epic. Nothing separated these two teams all season, and the same was to apply in the penultimate match of the year. In the end, it was down to the dreaded penalty shoot-out and basically there was only a kick in it.

Both teams can be proud of their efforts, with Sydney FC taking home official honours, but overall it was a magnificent title race, no less the better because teams like Wellington Phoenix and Perth Glory at least made a real go of it this year. With more teams and more fixtures to look forward to next season, the competition will take another leap forward to establishing itself as a league to be taken seriously by its football peers.

SPECIAL INTERESTS?
In November 2009 it was announced that the PFA will be setting up an arm of the organisation which will be dealing with player movement activities, called the PFA Player Management Agency.

It is headed by former Socceroo Brad Maloney, and has also already been involved in overseeing the transfer of Newcastle Jets skipper Matt Simon to Melbourne Heart. The PFA boasts on its website that it is "determined to not only provide independent advice and representation to players of the highest order, but to maximise the international competitiveness of Australian football."

Although I agree in principle of the nature of the PFA and what it stands for, I beg to differ how it can possibly claim to provided independent advice when there is such an obvious conflict of interest between the two parties. One cannot deny that when dealing with transfers of players then we are venturing into commercial set-up territory, and one has to ask, where do we draw the line exactly?

I was actually a FIFA Player Agent for some time, and when I decided to return to coaching a couple of years ago it was a condition of FIFA that I return my licence for the very same issues mentioned above. I do not understand why we have a set of rules for some and another set of rules for others. Ultimately, it's about doing the right thing, but I'm amazed that that no one has questioned the whole nature of the PFA Agency.

SPECIAL ONE
Champions League football was again the centre of attention last week with some mouth watering

encounters satisfying the appetite of football fans around the globe.

Pick of the bunch was no doubt watching the return of Jose Mourinho to Stamford Bridge, where Inter were too street-smart for Chelsea. There's no doubt that Mourinho is an excellent coach and Inter thoroughly deserved the win, tactically out doing Carlos Ancelotti in the process.

However, I was slightly perturbed to see, for the second year in succession, Didier Drogba have a nightmare moment and conclude his campaign with another red card born out of sheer frustration. Yes, Drogba retaliated and deserved to be sent from the field, but how on earth did the officials not see him being man handled by Thiago Motta prior to that?

Unfortunately for Drogba he is now left with a tarnished reputation of someone that cannot handle the pressure when being targeted by the opposition, but the Italians are renowned as the best in the business for having a knack to ruffling up their biggest threats to their advantage - a certain Zinedine Zidane immediately comes to mind as another player who fell on his own sword at a critical moment in a pretty big match.

Once again, I suppose it also brings up the old debate of whether or not it is suitable to use the assistance of video to help referees officiate games. It normally takes two to tango, and with the advantage of video, the referee could have pin-

pointed the exact moment when all the shenanigans began to take place.



Jose Mourinho showed he's no puppet when he out-smarted his old employers at the Battle of the Bridge last week.

SPECIAL FAVOURS

I find it very strange that there are certain players from the Keilor Park Soccer Club who have missed out on selection for the Victorian U14 and U15 State team squad.

Players of the calibre who contributed to Keilor Park winning the Super League Championship last season like, Matthew Cundari, Chris Stefani, Michael Katsiforis and Arron Sweeney, amongst others, have amazingly been overlooked for state selection. What is even more bewildering is that these same players are good enough to be targeted by international scouts, yet are deemed not good enough for our state team. What is going on? I believe the selection process by coaches must be scrutinised because it appears that too many players under slipping under the radar. I'm obviously not certain if this is the case in this situation, but I would have thought the days of favourable selection through having a high acquaintance with the selectors were now long gone and from a bygone era. If it's any consolation to these boys, I too was overlooked during my junior years, and the best way to prove them wrong is to keep striving to do your best on the field. I'm sure in due course you will get your just rewards.




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WAG OF THE WEEK



Kira Eggers Age: 33
InSignificant Other: Everton Midfielder, Thomas Gravesen.



TSIGAN'S TSIGAR

With Mike Lilikakis

Tsigan Rolls One Up from the South Coast!

BILLY ON AIR
I used to smile with a great deal of glee when I was a billionaire. I'd sit on my Luxury Yacht, the "Throat Wobbler Mangrove", and play chinese checkers with James Packer and we'd dine on some fine sea bisque. We would do bombs of the stern and bow to the mid-wives as we passed the S.A.N. It's a far cry from what we at TSIGAN UTD are up to these days, but we do this as a labour of love and the concubines are just as pretty as they were 40 years ago. The Revolution is full steam ahead, and truth be told, our infiltration is surpassing all expectation.

Funny how when the fit hits the shan and all is done and not said, you dear reader, are being seduced by the moron patrol. Tell me you weren't curious to see how Lara Bingle and Michael Clarke biffed at the SCG, or why she drove around aimlessly for 4 hours before picking up her mum and taking her shopping. RIVETTING! WOW! She is also interested in buying property! OO ERR SHOCK! GASP! HORROR! Next time you catch yourself wondering what she is doing, imagine yourself being tackled by a 400 pound toothless Russian prostitute who would love nothing more but to suck on your nose. I suppose that's why there's big gains in the bush. The house market in the rural/country is going bananas. The projected growth on properties is about 7.6% on a 10 year average. So unless you have a spare million lying around, don't bother trying to buy a house in 10 years time. Looks like giant steps are what you'll take, walking on the moon. It'll be a helluva lot cheaper, and the scenery is fanfrikintastic.

WAR ON FARTS
Everywhere you look, someone is declaring war on something. We've had the 'war on terror', the 'war on drugs', the 'war on smegma', and now, look out....the plebs are rising up to the new tune. "War on Farts". A particular Government workplace (which will remain anonymous as the silent fart, lest suing becomes a fanflucht of this magazine) is declaring war on their employees who rip a belter during work hours. If a colleague prps a frp, they can be taken into the office for counselling and the perpetrator sent in for psychological assessment, and possible loss of wages. So much for racism and prejudices being allowed to roam free! In order not to get in trouble, you gotta cross your legs 3 times and let your stomach twist and shout before you explode. Happy days. Natalie Tran is one happy chick. With over 600 thousand hits on her YouTube site, she is rolling in the cashola by uploading clips and reaping the benefits off sponsors who run ads off her site. What are you still doing reading this crap? GO AND HIT YOURSELF IN THE HEAD WITH A HAMMER AND MAKE MONEY YOU FOOL!

POLLY TICKLE CORRECTNESS
There was once upon a time an edict passed, which prohibited you from praying in public schools, proselyting the few faithful, stealing sheep, and or Bible bashing. The gist was, no one in their right mind wanted anyone preaching to them unless it was at Mass, Communion or Grand Final Day. If anyone was seen exerting an exhortation towards children, they would be defrocked or at the very least, sent home with a spank-



ing. Most often than not, religion was a no no in the public domain. Alas, there is no demarcation between the boing boing ding ding hoolaboola lollapalooza of the growing new fad of 'meditation'. Indeed, students are encouraged to 'switch off' and find their inner peace for 15 minute spells throughout the day, in an attempt to slow down and channel all the negative aspects of schoolboy syndrome into positive, lifechanging, albeit cathartic parenthesis. Tickle my fanny, that is rich. I suppose its ok providing there are no crucifixes hanging on the walls, and systematic theology isn't being rammed down throats. Please, by all means, let the kids vacate their senses for 15 minutes before letting them back into their iphones, boob tubes, bikkies and blades. A decent set of principles and a concept of morality isn't needed, as long as you don't clip the kid behind the ear when he steals your WRX at 3am for donuts, dug-gies and kicks it with his mates.

Never raise your hands to your kids, it leaves your nuts unprotected. My mother loved children, she would've given anything if I had been one. At least 18 countries have signed a concordat with the UN outlawing parents from smacking their kids. Indeed, with the UN particularly outraged that Australian parents are still living in the Dark Ages, should we be afraid that our medieval mentality will catch up to us? Just because we give our kids a fappa and batso, should we be seen by the world community as modern day Inquisitors lashing out our brand of paternal justice? We don't want to peace off the UN, but who knows, they might just send the USA to enforce martial whore. Remember that I'm just doing my part to anger people and subvert the regemonic money making machine. I swear bacteria is the only culture the UN has on show.

DREGS
Unfortunately it has reared its ugly head, again, thanks Ben. Like a dog returning to its own vomit, there is more drugs in sport than sands in the hourglass. So are the days of our lives? When busted, the best we can all do these days, is hope that the team doesn't get derailed and try and empathise with the poor sods who make a hundred grand a month chasing after a bit of pig skin. Diddums. There was a time when drugs were considered recreational, just like a round of golf, only everything including the walls were green. As a former user and abuser, I can only testify to the harmful, dsctructive and depressing consequences of substance use and abuse. The manner in which it destroys family, finances and sanity are too numerous to count. Today, we are living in a delusional playing field where players are being sheltered and fobbed off to a shrink, then turnstyled out to the jackals with catch phrase apologies, and sham regret puns. In essence, they are faux pax. Every contract should have a drug clause which Santa would wee wee himself over. Those are my principles, and if you don't like them, I have others. I mean, whenever people agree with me, I always feel that I am wrong. Face it. Progress is a chainsaw in the hands of a pathological criminal, and although some of us are prepared for martyrdom, we would much rather postpone it, at least until I pay back that fiver. Which reminds me, can I have another?

As always I remain;
Tsigan FC

I never forget a face, but in your case I'll make an exception.

FULL NAME: Kyle McBurney
BIRTHPLACE: Durban, South Africa
BIRTH DATE: 20/11/89
HEIGHT: 168cm
WEIGHT: 71kg
MARRIED: No
CAR: Toyota Hilux
NICKNAME: Safa
PREVIOUS CLUBS: Lions (Mackay, QLD) New Germany FC (Durban, South Africa)
REPRESENTATIVE HONOURS: State teams U16, U17 (KZN, South Africa), Capricornia (QLD)
CHILDHOOD FOOTBALL HERO: David Beckham
FAVOURITE Q/S PLAYER: Wayne Rooney
FAVOURITE HAL PLAYER: Jason Culina
FAVOURITE FORMER SOCCEROO: Mark Viduka
FAVOURITE CURRENT SOCCEROO: Tim Cahill
MOST MEMORABLE MATCH AS A PLAYER: My senior debut as a 14 year old in South Africa
MOST MEMORABLE MATCH AS A FAN: South Africa Vs England (Durban, SA). England won one nil and was the game Beckham broke his arm (that was live but if you mean any match I would say Man Utd winning 1999 Champions League - unreal)
MOST MEMORABLE GOAL YOU'VE SCORED: 2008 Grand Final win in Mackay. It was from 25 yards out and one that I'm very proud of and will never forget.
EARLIEST FOOTBALL MEMORY: My Dad taking me down to the soccer fields on Sundays to kick about and also watching him play senior football.
FUNNIEST MOMENT IN FOOTBALL: Can't say I have any that stick out
BIGGEST DISAPPOINTMENT: Probably just one or two injuries in recent years that have set me back at crucial times.
WORST INJURY: Broken arm
MOST DIFFICULT OPPONENT: In Australia I would definitely say The NQ Razorbacks in 2009; they had a top quality midfield that passed the ball around beautifully.
FAVOURITE AWAY GROUND: Bundaberg just purely for the atmosphere, they normally get a great ground down there.
SUPERSTITIONS: Don't have any just try to enjoy my football and not worry too much.
TYPICAL MATCH DAY MEAL: A bit of pasta and some fruit, and plenty of water.
WHAT ARE YOUR STRENGTHS: I would like to think my acceleration, my tackling, strength, shooting and work rate.
WHAT ARE YOUR WEAKNESSES: Do lack in the height department so you won't catch me going up for a corner. Ha-ha.
FAVOURITE TEAM WHEN GROWING UP: Manchester United
FAVOURITE OTHER SPORTS: Rugby Union and Cricket
FAVOURITE OTHER SPORTSPERSON: Herschelle Gibbs, one of the best batsmen in the world.
FAVOURITE FOODS: Pasta and steak.
FAVOURITE ACTOR/ACTRESS: Adam Sandler and Will Ferrell
HOBBIES: Playing soccer and spending time with family and friends.
FAVOURITE HOLIDAY RESORT: Of recent memory probably the Whitsunday Islands
FAVOURITE NIGHTSPOT: Airline Beach
FAVOURITE TV SHOWS: Fox sports FC, Friends and family guy.
FAVOURITE MUSIC: Hip hop, r & b, rock. Bit of everything really, starting to get into the Aussie stuff too ha-ha
FAVOURITE FILM: Anchor Man
LAST SOCCER SHIRT YOU BOUGHT: South Africa national team
FUNNIEST RUMOUR YOU'VE HEARD ABOUT YOURSELF: can't say I've heard of any which is a good thing I think.
BIGGEST INFLUENCE ON CAREER: My Dad, always taken a lot of inspiration from the way he plays his game and he's taught me most of what I know about the game.
BIGGEST DRAG IN SOCCER: Pre-season
FOOTBALL AMBITION: Would love the opportunity to play A-League as every QSL player does, so will continue to work hard and stay positive. I am also studying to become a sports psychologist at uni so at some stage in my life I strive to be among the elite clubs of the world at some level.
WHICH PERSON IN THE WORLD WOULD YOU MOST LIKE TO MEET?: David Beckham
YOUR TIP FOR THIS YEAR'S WORLD CUP: Spain



Kyle McBurney

Whitsunday Miners FC

PHOTO: BRETT MCDONALD



With Leroy Robinson

Taking the Laws into your own hands

By Leroy Robinson

It was a slow week in football with nothing really standing out (aside from Chelsea losing and Fulham winning) so I was a little stuck for material worthy of the discerning reader. Not even this will stop London Calling's opinionated columnist from expression forthright opinion. Do remember though that the opinions expressed here may not necessarily be the views of the paper – or anyone else for that matter...

Fans Want To Own Clubs

A study by YouGov - the research and survey company - of over 2,000 football fans indicated an overwhelming majority of Manchester United (80%) and Liverpool (70%) fans feel the clubs would be better run if they were co-operatively owned by fans. Bear in mind the survey was commissioned for Co-operatives UK (meaning they paid YouGov to produce the survey) and comes at a time when, given the strength of feeling against ownership at both clubs, the results were a foregone conclusion.

"It's time to let the fans have a real say in the running of their clubs," said Ed May of Co-operatives UK, according to the BBC Sport website.

Aside from being struck by the feeling that this is about the only thing the two sets of fans will ever agree on it was the arrogance of the statement that hit me. Think about it. In essence the fans are no more than paying customers who turn up every few weeks, shout and chant and get intoxicated and then go home. Before you punch holes in my photo think about it for a few seconds.

I'm not denying we all have an emotional attachment and loyalty to our clubs that will never be broken, and that part of us feels the club is 'ours'.

However, an emotional attachment toward something doesn't make it yours. Does a love for a football club, the buying of a ticket and a shirt constitute ownership? The word from the survey was that most fans would dish out £600 into their chosen club. Money is real ownership – ask The Glaziers.



Burnley's Brian Laws does a quick double check to see which team he's meant to be bringing pain and misery to.



Iain Dowie joins the EPL race with nine games to go and hopes he can reproduce the magic that saved Crystal Palace.



Avram Grant helps the Pompey faithful cry themselves to sleep at night.

The Laws An Ass

There were rumours this week in the press that Brian Laws would be sacked as manager of Burnley. Unfortunately for Burnley fans he was still in a job, presiding over the heartbreaking 1-0 defeat against Wigan. The fans haven't taken to Laws and like me were flabbergasted by his appointment.

Remember, this is a guy who had NEVER managed in the top flight before taking over at Turf Moor. As if the hiring wasn't bizarre enough check out his managerial excellence over the 11 league games he's been in charge, up to and including the defeat against fellow strugglers Wigan:

Played 11 - Won 1 - Drawn 1 - Lost 9

But surely they signed him on the strength of his excellent pre-Burnley record, you may say? Think gain, In an 11 game span with The Owls of Sheffield Wednesday his record was:

Played 11 - Won 1 - Drawn 2 - Lost 8

He was sacked from the Coca Cola Championship club in mid December whilst in the midst of a relegation fight (Merry Xmas!) and promoted to a dog-fight in the EPL a month later. Way to go Burnley, now that's forward thinking because when you go down he'll already have experience of battling against the drop in the CCC.

So if it wasn't his record, what was the

real reason Laws was brought in? The club consulted Deloitte and Touche on which manager had provided the best results compared to his budget. Laws came top over a three-year stretch, 2006-2009. In other words he was cheap and available. Were they not told that past performance can be no indicator of future performance? Chelsea fans know this all too well by now – Crespo, Shevchenko and Ballack spring to mind.

As you would expect, Laws credentials have made it easy for the fans to turn against him, you only have to look at forums and judge the crowd reaction to him to know he'll need a tin helmet and bunker mentality if he is to last past this season and beyond.

For their part Burnley angrily denied the reports of his imminent sacking in The Sun, describing them as "ludicrous, irresponsible, damaging and inaccurate." Seems a perfect way to describe their recruitment process if you ask me.

Brown Out, Dowie In – No, It's not April 1st!

Speaking of which, Iain Dowie's instalment as manager of Hull City on a short term contract is another case of an EPL club trading down for a Championship manager. Is Dowie really a trade up on Phil Brown, a man who helped steer them clear of relegation last season – a

beist on the final day?

Defeat against doomed Pompey isn't the way to start and of all the times to change manager now is the worst. No time to implement a system, no time to get to know the players and at the most crucial point in the season.

Given his record of just 5 wins this season Brown should have been sacked months ago and always seemed one defeat away from the chop.

It can go one of two ways, the Tigers could be liberated, knowing that Dowie will be there at least till the end of the season or they could fall apart. This column doesn't have the space and this columnist doesn't have the patience to go through Dowie's prolonged list of clubs or his recent managerial record. Suffice to say the fact he was also out of work when recruited speaks volumes. Let's give him time and judge him by his results – though I expect them to be bad.

Avram Rant

Pompey may be going down but they get the prize for the most ridiculous story of the week. This is what Avram Grant said after the 9 point deduction for Pompey was ratified by the EPL:

"We don't have a duty to the Premier League, or any other Premier team," Grant said.

"I said we would fight against everything

as long as we had a chance, now I don't know...

"But before I say anything I want to know the opinions of the players, and they need to hear my opinions."

He's speaking about fielding a weakened team for the rest of the season. Am I the only one who thinks this smacks of spitting out the dummy? Obviously this was said in anger but surely he didn't expect anything other than the points deduction. Maybe he's the type who also believes in the tooth fairy.

The point is in his rant he also spoke of the points deduction punishing the supporters but if he withdrew most of the first team then who is affected? Supporters who have suffered enough this season pay their money and they do have a right to see the best performers available.

Was he serious? Maybe. The fact is he fielded a full strength side against Hull and won 3-2. Glad he didn't field a weakened side – far better to go out of the league fighting rather than crying.

SOURCES:

www.burnleyfootballclub.com/
www.swfc.co.uk
www.bbc.co.uk/sport/

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With Adam North

The Boys of the Old Brigade

By Adam North

There will be two teams from the English Premiership involved in the draw for the UEFA Champions League Quarter-Finals this season. The team that many feel are still favourites for the league itself, Chelsea, will not be one of them. Instead it will be Arsenal and Manchester United fighting for success against the cream of Europe, whereas Chelsea are left to concentrate on solely English matters.

The defeat on Wednesday night was devastating for many Chelsea fans, and almost certainly for their owner Roman Abramovich, who brought in the current Blues boss Carlo Ancelotti to bring European success to the club. Over the course of the two legs Inter Milan were probably the better side, and beating Chelsea at their home ground is an achievement to be proud of.

In terms of the actual game Wednesday night, Chelsea were outplayed and outsmarted by an opposition who aren't really any better than them. In fact, I would say that Chelsea are a stronger team than Inter. Yet their old boss, Jose Mourinho, showed why he is a much sort after manager, as he came up with a perfect game plan to defeat his former employers.

Now I'm not here to predict the downfall of Chelsea just because they lost one match, especially a match against the best team in Italy. Although I think the two games showed up areas of weakness for Chelsea, it's a giant leap to suggest that their season is about to crumble because they were beaten. In fact, they are still in pole position in terms of winning both the Premier League title and the



FA Cup, which by any stretch would be considered a great season.

What the game against Inter did show, which should be a worry for all Chelsea fans, is the lack of squad depth at the West London club. Looking to change his team's fortunes, Ancelotti had only Joe Cole and Salomon Kalou as recognised attackers with a decent amount of experience. There was also Daniel Sturridge, a promising youngster, although he has yet to make any kind of headway at the Blues.

Chelsea were suffering from a few injuries, and it's hard to deny that fully fit their first team squad is one of the best in the Premier League. But the problem is that they are always just a couple of injuries away from imploding. Take Drogba, Lampard and Cech out, and Chelsea just will not function anywhere near the level that they are currently at. There is simply no way that they would be able to win anything, let alone the Premiership or the Champions League, if just a couple of their players go down.

The best way to illustrate my point is

by looking at a team like Arsenal. Here is a team that is continuing to compete in both their domestic league and in Europe without their main striker Robin Van Persie, who has been out for months now. They also beat their Champions League opposition without Van Persie, Cesc Fabregas and William Gallas, the spine of their team. Of course the Gunners aren't as good without these men in the side, yet they are still able to compete, something which I don't believe can be said for Chelsea.

What is worse for Chelsea fans is that both their owner and their manager see the best way of combating this lack of depth is to buy more big name players. This is simply ridiculous, as you cannot make a squad by just buying whoever you can, as Manchester City are finding out right now. Yes it may lead to limited, immediate success, but what about the future of the football club?

And here is the point; Chelsea's first team squad is currently made up of several players around the thirty age mark. This means that in the next few

years there will be a massive change in the Chelsea first team, with players like Frank Lampard, Didier Drogba and Nicolas Anelka all retiring or moving on, but where are their replacements?

There seems to be no upward movement at Chelsea; their youth players are hardly, if ever, given a chance to make a name for themselves in the first team. Off the top of their head I challenge anyone to name even a couple of players that Chelsea are bringing through into the first team right now. And this brings us back to the lack of depth in the squad, as the proven way of maintaining a strong squad over an extended period of time is to have established older professional eventually giving way to younger, fitter replacements, with a sprinkling of big transfer purchases added into the mix.

Let's look at Manchester United, a team which has maintained a strong, competitive squad since the very beginning of the Premier League over fifteen years ago. Right now players like Ryan Giggs, Paul Scholes and Gary Neville are all near the end of their amazingly successful careers at United, but as good as they all still are, none of them are considered to be full first team players. At Chelsea they would probably all be in the team every week.

And at United we can see the replacements for their established stars coming through. Players like Valencia bought from Wigan, Nani, the Da Silva twins and Jonny Evans have all played a major part in United's season, and they are all young and hungry for success. Maybe the best example would be Darron Gibson, who has played several games for United this season, even though he plays in the middle of the park, an area of great strength and depth for the current league champions.

Apparently Chelsea do have many talented youngsters at the club. Just this week Brendan Rodgers, former youth team manager at the Blues, suggested that there are several top quality young players at the club. But I say where are they then? How can anyone expect young players to learn how to play football at the top level if they are never given the opportunity to do so? They certainly can't learn that much from just sitting in the stands watching.

And it's funny that the current Chelsea boss, Carlo Ancelotti, was also the man in charge of the sometimes agonisingly old boys at AC Milan. Milan is a club that is really struggling for top success as in recent years they have been almost solely relying on players who are over thirty, and sometimes even over forty, with no replacements coming through. I worry that Chelsea are quickly becoming the same.

Just think, if Roman Abramovich pulled out right now, and Chelsea had to sell some of their big name players to make some money, would they be able to compete for the league? Quite simply they would not, as there are no players at the club able to step into the shoes of their established, yet increasingly aging, stars. To succeed Chelsea must start investing in young talent, either bringing them in from other clubs or by starting to introduce some of their youth team players into first team action. If they continue on their current path of bringing in established big name players to play alongside their ever aging current first team, then they could struggle to challenge at the top for any kind of extended period, as their first team is rapidly becoming, at least in footballing terms, a team of Chelsea pensioners.

IN OFF THE POST



Got something to say? Drop us a line and get it off your chest. Best letter wins double movie pass to Palace Cinemas.

mailbag@goalweekly.com

Dear Ed,

My name is Lenny Dellerman, a white South African who grew up in Johannesburg and migrated to Perth in the early nineties when things were changing for the worse in my country. As you may or may not be aware, March 21st is International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination and it's a day, which frankly, sticks in my craw.

Although I have lived in Melbourne for 10 years I still miss the mother country. At times I become so nostalgic for the old ways, that I deliberately seek out experiences that take me back to the good old days, like visiting a convenience store to abuse the Indian student behind the counter.

You can imagine my delight then, when I attended a VPL match on Friday night at the Jack Edwards reserve in Oakleigh and found racism

alive and well and flourishing.

The racist abuse coming from the stands, directed at the black Oakleigh player, filled my eyes with tears of pure joy. I closed my eyes and imagined Mandela back in his Robben Island prison and P.W. Botha in charge of my beloved country. I won't deny it, it kind of excited me- a huge nostalgia trip. The fans who screamed such epithets deserve high praise for actively supporting their team by trying to put the Zulu warrior of Oakleigh off his game. All's fair in Love and War as they say.

Congratulations are in order too for the fans of both sides, the referees, the players, the coaches and club officials from both sides for not taking any silly stand against the racist element. It was truly uplifting to see and I feel better for having seen it..

Let's face it. Sport should reflect the ideals of the society it exists

in and I'm glad to say: Racism is alive and well in both the VPL and Victoria at large. Thank god for the VPL for allowing us the opportunity to enjoy home grown racism and not spoiling it by marking the International Day for the Elimination of Racism Discrimination.

Yours sincerely,

Lenny Dellerman
Address withheld

Dear Ed,

About time i saw progress in the FFV. From their improving website (improving, but still not great). Then to their live internet games, which to my surprise are actually uncannily great. Was nice to see a game online in full, and then i caught the new football show on tv that was actually showing games and much to my surprise has

a slicker new look and not like that circus they had for years, its only a half hour tho, would be good if it was longer. THUMBS UP to the FFV and i have been their biggest pest !

Dale More
Melbourne

Dear GW,

Let me take this opportunity to say thank you to all the free-to-air networks. It's the Friday night before the Grand Final and there's been a whopping 3 minutes of combined news coverage on all the commercial networks. Great work guys! And a special thank you to Sports Tonight. It seems the cheeky devils at Ticketmaster have sold me a grand final ticket with 'Etihad Stadium' written on it. Thank God the ST anchor was there to inform me that the game is actually going to

be held in Sydney! Jesus, what a near miss. I've booked my flight just in the nick of time.

Bring Back Tim Webster
Croydon

Dear Ed,

Big name foreign manager: £9m
Wage Bill: £200m
Combined Transfer Fees: £300m
Watching football's most obnoxious shower of nouveau riche bellends get dumped out of Europe yet again: Priceless!
Hope you enjoyed your Milanese holiday, Roman. Congratulations on another year of bugger all.

Forever Blowing Roubels
Oakleigh



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AUSSIE RULES IN PREVIEW

TOM KNEEBONE STUDIES THE AFL SEASON AHEAD



The three men, Michael Malthouse - Coach, Eddie McGuire - President and Nathan Buckley - Assistant Coach, who hope to clinch the Magpies' first Premiership since the Daicos days

Adelaide Crows

Premiers: 12.50 betfair
Top 8: 1.41 betfair
Spoon: 201 centrebet

2009 key statistic: Won 12 of their final 16 games, losing only to Geelong, St Kilda and Collingwood (twice).

Gains: The Crows topped up their squad with kids from the draft.

Losses: Nick Gill and Robert Shirley have both been delisted.

Brisbane Lions

Premiers: 15.50 betfair
Top 8: 1.31 betfair
Spoon: 151 sportsbet

2009 key statistic: Won nine of 12 at the Gabba losing only to Carlton, Collingwood and the Western Bulldogs.

Gains: Brendan Fevola (Carlton), Xavier Clarke (St Kilda), Brent Staker (West Coast).

Losses: Daniel Bradshaw (Sydney), Bradd Dalziel (West Coast), Rhan Hooper (Hawthorn).

Carlton Blues

Premiers: 48.00 betfair
Top 8: 2.10 sportsbet
Spoon: 51.00 centrebet

2009 key statistic: With Fevola, Carlton were the highest scoring team (2270).

Gains: Brock McLean (Melbourne), Lachlan Henderson (Brisbane).

Losses: Brendan Fevola (Brisbane), Nick Stevens (retired), Cameron Cloke (Port Adelaide).



Brendan Fevola will be hoping to purge himself of his off-season antics and earn his money at the Lions

AFL Preview – Part 2 will be in the next edition of Goal Weekly with season predictions.

Hawthorn Hawks

Premiers: 10.00 sportsbet
Top 8: 1.36 betfair
Spoon: 201 centrebet

2009 key statistic: Won three of their last 10 games, as did Fremantle, North Melbourne, Richmond and Melbourne.

Gains: Shaun Burgoyne (Port Adelaide), Josh Gibson (North Melbourne), Rhan Hooper (Brisbane).

Losses: Mark Williams (Essendon), Stuart Dew (retired), Robert Campbell (retired).

Collingwood Magpies

Premiers: 12.00 centrebet
Top 8: 1.28 betfair
Spoon: 201 centrebet

2009 key statistic: From round 9 to round 21 the only game they lost was to Hawthorn. They lost three of their last four (Bulldogs, St Kilda and Geelong).

Gains: Luke Ball (St Kilda), Darren Jolly (Sydney), Simon Buckley (Melbourne).

Losses: Anthony Rocca (retired), Marty Clarke, Shannon Cox (delisted).

Essendon Bombers

Premiers: 65.00 betfair
Top 8: 3.25 centrebet
Spoon: 22.00 betfair

2009 key statistic: Finished eighth but only four teams conceded more points than them.

Gains: Mark Williams (Hawthorn) and kids from the draft.

Losses: Matthew Lloyd and Scott Lucas (retired), Andrew Lovett (retired).

Fremantle Dockers

Premiers: 110 betfair
Top 8: 4.70 betfair
Spoon: 7.50 sportsbet

2009 key statistic: Won one of 11 away from Subiaco. That victory was on the Gold Coast.

Gains: Adam McPhee (Essendon) and kids from the draft.

Losses: Brett Peake (St Kilda), Marcus Drum (Geelong).



Geelong's now retired captain Tom Harley will be sorely missed

Geelong Cats

Premiers: 4.75 centrebet
Top 8: 1.08 betfair
Spoon: 501 sportsbet

2009 key statistic: Didn't lose a game at home for the second successive season.

Gains: Marcus Drum (Fremantle) and kids from the draft.

Losses: Matthew Egan and Tom Harley (retired), Shane Mumford (Sydney).

GOLD COAST UNITED

A-LEAGUE NYL CHAMPIONS 2009/10



A-LEAGUE



PHOTOS: DANIEL FLIS



NYL GRAND FINAL | GOLD COAST UNITED FC 2-1 PERTH GLORY FC | SAT 20TH MARCH 2010 | ETIHAD STADIUM | MELBOURNE



SYDNEY FC

A-LEAGUE CHAMPIONS 2009/10

PHOTOS: DANIEL FLIS



GRAND FINAL | MELB VICTORY 1-1 SYDNEY FC | SCF WINS 4-2 ON PENALTIES | SAT 20TH MARCH 2010 | ETIHAD STADIUM | CROWD: 44,560



Round 1
7pm Sat 27/Feb 2 B'rigg White Eagles v Sth Cst Wolves 1
Bonnyrigg Sports Club
7.30pm Sat 27/Feb 1 Marconi Stallions v W Syd Berries 0
Marconi Stadium
6pm Sun 28/Feb 2 Syd Olympic v S'land Sharks 0
Belmore Sports Ground
6pm Sun 28/Feb 2 Bankstown City v Manly Utd 2
Jensen Park
6pm Sun 28/Feb 1 Blacktown City v APIA L'hardt Tigers 0
Lily Homes
6pm Sun 28/Feb 4 Syd Utd v Rockdale City Suns 1
Sydney Utd Sports Centre

Round 2
6.30pm Sat 6/Mar 1 Sth Cst Wolves v Marconi Stallions 2
Win Stadium
7pm Sat 6/Mar 0 Syd Olympic v Syd Utd 1
Belmore Sports Ground
7pm Sat 6/Mar 4 B'rigg W Eagles v APIA L'hardt Tigers 1
Bonnyrigg Sports Club
5pm Sun 7/Mar 1 Rockdale City Suns v Bankstown City 0
Bicentennial Park Sth
6pm Sun 7/Mar 0 Manly Utd v by Blacktown City 2
Cromer Park
6pm Sun 7/Mar 2 West Syd Berries v S'land Sharks 1
Sydney Olympic Athletic Centre

Round 3
7pm Sat 13/Mar 2 S'land Sharks v Sth Coast Wolves 0
Seymour Shaw Park
7.30pm Sat 13/Mar 0 Marconi v B'rigg White Eagles 0
Marconi Stadium
6pm Sun 14/Mar 2 Bankstown City v Syd Olympic 2
Jensen Park
6pm Sun 14/Mar 0 APIA L'hardt Tigers v by Manly Utd 3
Leichhardt Oval
6pm Sun 14/Mar 2 Blacktown City v Rockdale C Suns 2
Lily Homes
6pm Sun 14/Mar 1 Syd Utd v West Syd Berries 1
Sydney Utd Sports Centre

Round 4
7pm Sat 20/Mar B'rigg White Eagles v S'land Sharks
Bonnyrigg Sports Club
7.30pm Sat 20/Mar Marconi v APIA L'hardt Tigers
Marconi Stadium
5pm Sun 21/Mar Rockdale City Suns v Manly Utd
Bicentennial Park Sth
6pm Sun 21/Mar Syd Olympic v Blacktown City
Belmore Sports Ground
6pm Sun 21/Mar Syd Utd v Sth Coast Wolves
Sydney Utd Sports Centre
7pm Sun 21/Mar West Syd Berries v Bankstown City
Jensen Park

Round 5
7pm Sat 27/Mar S'land Sharks v Marconi Stallions
Seymour Shaw Park
6pm Sun 28/Mar Manly Utd v Syd Olympic
Cromer Park
6pm Sun 28/Mar Bankstown City v Sth Coast Wolves
Jensen Park
7pm Sat 28/Mar APIA L'hardt Tigers v Rockdale C Suns
Leichhardt Oval
6pm Sun 28/Mar Blacktown City v West Syd Berries
Lily Homes
6pm Sun 28/Mar Syd Utd v B'rigg White Eagles
Sydney Utd Sports Centre

Round 6
6pm Sat 3/Apr West Syd Berries v Manly Utd
Sydney Olympic Athletic Centre
6.30pm Sat 3/Apr Sth Coast Wolves v Blacktown City
Win Stadium
7pm Sat 3/Apr B'rigg White Eagles v Bankstown City
Bonnyrigg Sports Club
7.30pm Sat 3/Apr Marconi Stallions v Syd Utd
Marconi Stadium
7pm Sun 4/Apr S'land Sharks v APIA L'hardt Tigers
Seymour Shaw Park
6pm Mon 5/Apr Syd Olympic v Rockdale City Suns
Belmore Sports Ground

Round 7
3pm Sun 11/Apr Rockdale City Suns v West Syd Berries
Bicentennial Park Sth
3pm Sun 11/Apr Manly Utd v Sth Coast Wolves
Cromer Park
3pm Sun 11/Apr Bankstown City v Marconi Stallions
Jensen Park
3pm Sun 11/Apr Blacktown City v B'rigg White Eagles
Lily Homes
3pm Sun 11/Apr Syd Utd v S'land Sharks
Sydney Utd Sports Centre
4pm Sun 11/Apr APIA L'hardt Tigers v Syd Olympic
Leichhardt Oval



Sutherland Sharks celebrate their Grand Final win in 2009.
PHOTO: CARLOS FURTADO

Round 8
7pm Sat 17/Apr B'rigg White Eagles v Manly Utd
Bonnyrigg Sports Club
7pm Sat 17/Apr S'land Sharks v Bankstown City
Seymour Shaw Park
7.30pm Sat 17/Apr Marconi Stallions v Blacktown City
Marconi Stadium
3pm Sun 18/Apr Syd Olympic v West Syd Berries
Belmore Sports Ground
3pm Sun 18/Apr Sth Coast Wolves v Rockdale City Suns
Win Stadium
4pm Sun 18/Apr Syd Utd v APIA L'hardt Tigers
Sydney Utd Sports Centre

Round 9
3pm Sun 25/Apr Syd Olympic v Sth Coast Wolves
Belmore Sports Ground
3pm Sun 25/Apr Rockdale C Suns v B'rigg White Eagles
Bicentennial Park Sth
3pm Sun 25/Apr Manly Utd v Marconi Stallions
Cromer Park
3pm Sun 25/Apr Bankstown City v Syd Utd
Jensen Park
3pm Sun 25/Apr APIA L'hardt Tigers v West Syd Berries
Leichhardt Oval
3pm Sun 25/Apr Blacktown City v S'land Sharks
Lily Homes

Round 10
7pm Sat 1/May B'rigg White Eagles v Syd Olympic
Bonnyrigg Sports Club
7pm Sat 1/May S'land Sharks v Manly Utd
Seymour Shaw Park
7.30pm Sat 1/May Marconi Stallions v Rockdale C Suns
Marconi Stadium
3pm Sun 2/May Bankstown City v APIA L'hardt Tigers
Jensen Park
3pm Sun 2/May West Syd Berries v Sth Coast Wolves
Sydney Olympic Athletic Centre
3pm Sun 2/May Syd Utd v Blacktown City
Sydney Utd Sports Centre

Round 11
3pm Sun 9/May Syd Olympic v Marconi Stallions
Belmore Sports Ground
3pm Sun 9/May Rockdale City Suns v S'land Sharks
Bicentennial Park Sth
3pm Sun 9/May Manly Utd v Syd Utd
Cromer Park
3pm Sun 9/May Blacktown City v Bankstown City
Lily Homes
3pm Sun 9/May West Syd Berries v B'rigg White Eagles
Sydney Olympic Athletic Centre
3pm Sun 9/May Sth Coast Wolves v APIA L'hardt Tigers
Win Stadium

Round 12
7pm Sat 15/May S'land Sharks v Syd Olympic
Seymour Shaw Park
3pm Sun 16/May Rockdale City Suns v Syd Utd
Bicentennial Park Sth
3pm Sun 16/May Manly Utd v Bankstown City
Cromer Park
3pm Sun 16/May APIA L'hardt Tigers v Blacktown City
Leichhardt Oval
3pm Sun 16/May West Syd Berries v Marconi Stallions
Sydney Olympic Athletic Centre
3pm Sun 16/May Sth Coast Wolves v B'rigg White Eagles
Win Stadium

Round 13
7pm Sat 22/May S'land Sharks v West Syd Berries
Seymour Shaw Park
7.30pm Sat 22/May Marconi Stallions v Sth Coast Wolves
Marconi Stadium
3pm Sun 23/May Bankstown City v Rockdale City Suns
Jensen Park
3pm Sun 23/May APIA L'hardt Tigers v B'rigg W Eagles
Leichhardt Oval
3pm Sun 23/May Blacktown City v Manly Utd
Lily Homes
4pm Sun 23/May Syd Utd v Syd Olympic
Sydney Utd Sports Centre

Round 14
7pm Sat 29/May B'rigg White Eagles v Marconi Stallions
Bonnyrigg Sports Club
3pm Sun 30/May Syd Olympic v Bankstown City
Belmore Sports Ground
3pm Sun 30/May Rockdale City Suns v Blacktown City
Bicentennial Park Sth
3pm Sun 30/May Manly Utd v APIA L'hardt Tigers
Cromer Park
3pm Sun 30/May West Syd Berries v Syd Utd
Sydney Olympic Athletic Centre
3pm Sun 30/May Sth Coast Wolves v S'land Sharks
Win Stadium

Round 15
7pm Sat 5/Jun S'land Sharks v B'rigg White Eagles
Seymour Shaw Park
3pm Sun 6/Jun Manly Utd v Rockdale City Suns
Cromer Park
3pm Sun 6/Jun Bankstown City v West Syd Berries
Jensen Park
3pm Sun 6/Jun APIA L'hardt Tigers v Marconi Stallions
Leichhardt Oval
3pm Sun 6/Jun Blacktown City v Syd Olympic
Lily Homes
3pm Sun 6/Jun Sth Coast Wolves v Syd Utd
Win Stadium

Round 16
7pm Sat 12/Jun B'rigg White Eagles v Syd Utd
Bonnyrigg Sports Club
7.30pm Sat 12/Jun Marconi Stallions v S'land Sharks
Marconi Stadium
3pm Sun 13/Jun Syd Olympic v Manly Utd
Belmore Sports Ground
3pm Sun 13/Jun Rockdale C Suns v APIA L'hardt Tigers
Bicentennial Park Sth
3pm Sun 13/Jun West Syd Berries v Blacktown City
Sydney Olympic Athletic Centre
3pm Sun 13/Jun Sth Coast Wolves v Bankstown City
Win Stadium

Round 17
3pm Sun 20/Jun Rockdale City Suns v Syd Olympic
Bicentennial Park Sth
3pm Sun 20/Jun Manly Utd v West Syd Berries
Cromer Park
3pm Sun 20/Jun Bankstown City v B'rigg White Eagles
Jensen Park
3pm Sun 20/Jun APIA L'hardt Tigers v S'land Sharks
Leichhardt Oval
3pm Sun 20/Jun Blacktown City v Sth Coast Wolves
Lily Homes
4pm Sun 20/Jun Syd Utd v Marconi Stallions
Sydney Utd Sports Centre

Round 18
7pm Sat 26/Jun B'rigg White Eagles v Blacktown City
Bonnyrigg Sports Club
7.30pm Sat 26/Jun Marconi Stallions v Bankstown City
Marconi Stadium
3pm Sun 27/Jun Syd Olympic v APIA L'hardt Tigers
Belmore Sports Ground
3pm Sun 27/Jun S'land Sharks v Syd Utd
Seymour Shaw Park
3pm Sun 27/Jun West Syd Berries v Rockdale City Suns
Sydney Olympic Athletic Centre
3pm Sun 27/Jun Sth Coast Wolves v Manly Utd
Win Stadium

Round 19
3pm Sun 4/Jul Rockdale City Suns v Sth Coast Wolves
Bicentennial Park Sth
3pm Sun 4/Jul Manly Utd v B'rigg White Eagles
Cromer Park
3pm Sun 4/Jul Bankstown City v S'land Sharks
Jensen Park
3pm Sun 4/Jul APIA L'hardt Tigers v Syd Utd
Leichhardt Oval
3pm Sun 4/Jul Blacktown City v Marconi Stallions
Lily Homes
3pm Sun 4/Jul West Syd Berries v Syd Olympic
Sydney Olympic Athletic Centre

Round 20
7pm Sat 17/Jul B'rigg White Eagles v Rockdale City Suns
Bonnyrigg Sports Club
7.30pm Sat 17/Jul Marconi Stallions v Manly Utd
Marconi Stadium
3pm Sun 18/Jul S'land Sharks v Blacktown City
Seymour Shaw Park
3pm Sun 18/Jul West Syd Berries v APIA L'hardt Tigers
Sydney Olympic Athletic Centre
3pm Sun 18/Jul Sth Coast Wolves v Syd Olympic
Win Stadium
4pm Sun 18/Jul Syd Utd v Bankstown City
Sydney Utd Sports Centre

Round 21
3pm Sun 25/Jul Syd Olympic v B'rigg White Eagles
Belmore Sports Ground
3pm Sun 25/Jul Rockdale City Suns v Marconi Stallions
Bicentennial Park Sth
3pm Sun 25/Jul Manly Utd v S'land Sharks
Cromer Park
3pm Sun 25/Jul APIA L'hardt Tigers v Bankstown City
Leichhardt Oval
3pm Sun 25/Jul Blacktown City v Syd Utd
Lily Homes
3pm Sun 25/Jul Sth Coast Wolves v West Syd Berries
Win Stadium

Round 22
3pm Sun 1/Aug B'rigg White Eagles v West Syd Berries
Bonnyrigg Sports Club
3pm Sun 1/Aug Bankstown City v Blacktown City
Jensen Park
3pm Sun 1/Aug APIA L'hardt Tigers v Sth Coast Wolves
Leichhardt Oval
3pm Sun 1/Aug Marconi Stallions v Syd Olympic
Marconi Stadium
3pm Sun 1/Aug S'land Sharks v Rockdale City Suns
Seymour Shaw Park
3pm Sun 1/Aug Syd Utd v Manly Utd
Sydney Utd Sports Centre

BONDI JUNCTION, RAIL BOOKSTALL BONDI JUNCTION, SHOP 2, 93 GROSVENOR ST
BONDI JUNCTION, BONDI JUNCTION RAILWAY NEWSAGENCY, GRAFTON ST
BONDI JUNCTION, BONDI JUNCTION NEWSAGENCY, 201 OXFORD ST
BONDI JUNCTION, EASTGATE NEWSAGENCY, 71-91 SPRING ST
CHATSWOOD, CHAT'S NEWSAGENCY, 569 PACIFIC HWY
CHATSWOOD, CHATSWOOD NEWSAGENCY, SHOP 249, 813 PACIFIC H'WAY CNR HELP ST
CHATSWOOD, CHATSWOOD WESTFIELD NEWSAGENCY, SHOP 229-230 WESTFIELD S/TOWN, SPRING ST
HORNSBY , NORTHGATE NEWSAGENCY, SHOP 1066 WESTFIELD S/TOWN
HORNSBY, CORONATION STREET NEWSAGENCY, 16 CORONATION ST
HORNSBY, HORNSBY MALL NEWSAGENCY, SHOP 1 33 FLORENCE ST
HORNSBY HEIGHTS, HORNSBY HEIGHTS NEWSAGENCY, SHOP 4,

110 GALSTON RD
HORNSBY, TO'S NEWSAGENCY HORNSBY WESTFIELD SHOP-PINGTOWN, SHOP 1, 33 FLORENCE ST
BURWOOD, TOMKINS & GODWIN NEWSAGENCY, SHOP 2A, 16-22 BURWOOD RD
BURWOOD, BURWOOD NEWSAGENCY, SHOP 7, MURRAY ARCADE, 127-133 BURWOOD RD
PARRAMATTA, DALLAS NEWSAGENCY, THE CONNECTION ARCADE, SHOP 6, 162-172 CHURCH ST
PARRAMATTA, PARRAMATTA CBD NEWSAGENCY, SHOP 16 MAYFAIR MALL, 272 CHURCH ST
PARRAMATTA, SHOP 2 NEW EASTERN SUBWAY, ARGYLE ST
NORTH ROCKS, GOODNEWS NEWSAGENCY, RAMP ON 328-335 NORTH ROCKS RD
NORTH ROCKS, NORTH ROCKS NEWSAGENCY, 312B NORTH ROCKS RD
LIVERPOOL, ELIZABETH DR NEWSAGENCY, UNIT 4 / 1 WOODLANDS RD
LIVERPOOL, LIVERPOOL PLAZA NEWSAGENCY, SHOP 27 LIVER-

POOL PLAZA,NORTHUMBERLAND ST
LIVERPOOL, THAI L & V NEWSAGENCY, 64 MOORE ST
HURSTVILLE, FOREST ROAD NEWSAGENCY, 308 FOREST RD
HURSTVILLE, ORMONDE NEWSAGENCY HURSTVILLE, SHOP 4, 14-16 ORMONDE PARADE
HURSTVILLE , NORTH HURSTVILLE NEWSAGENCY, SHOP 4 LEADER BUILDING CNR.FOREST & PARK RD, 182 FOREST RD
MIRANDA , MIRANDA NEWSAGENCY, 88 KIORA RD
MIRANDA , STH MIRANDA NEWSAGENCY, 94A KIORA RD
TUGGERAH, SHOP 1082 WESTFIELD SHOP/TN, COBBS RD
KOTARA, SHOP 133 GARDEN CITY SHOPP CTR, CNR PARK AVE & NORTHCOTT DR
WARRAWONG, SHOP 4, 72-74 KING ST
WARRAWONG, SHOP 39 - 40 WESTFIELD, WESTFIELD SHOP-PINGTOWN
WARRAWONG, WARRAWONG NEWSAGENCY, SHOP 1, 145 KING ST
FIGTREE, FIGTREE NEWSAGENCY - SHOP 1, 5 BELLEVUE RD
FIGTREE, FIGTREE NEWSAGENCY - SHOPS 29-30, WESTFIELD S/

CTR THE AVE
ALBURY, SHOP 4, 557 DEAN ST
COROWA , 65 SANGER ST
WAGGA WAGGA, FERNLEIGH RD
BERRIGAN, 26 CHANTER ST
PENRITH, SCHUBACH'S NEWSAGENCY, 495 HIGH ST
PENRITH, SOUTH PENRITH NEWSAGENCY & PO, 157 SMITH ST
PENRITH, MARKETLAND NEWSAGENCY, SHOP 1, 7 CALOOLA AVE
PENRITH, SOUTHLANDS NEWSAGENCY, 157 SMITH ST
PENRITH, PENRITH PLAZA NEWSAGENCY, WOOLWORTHS ENT VIA JANE ST
MOUNT DRUITT, RJ & JP MITCHELL NEWSAGENCY, 2 MOUNT DRUIT RD
MOUNT DRUITT, MOUNT DRUITT NEWSAGENCY, SHOP 16 WESTFIELD SHOPPINGTOWN, NORTH PARADE
BROKEN HILL, LAWRENCE NEWSAGENCY, 121 OXIDE ST
BROKEN HILL, WESTSIDE NEWSAGENCY, GALENA ST



Knights go 2 points clear

By Walter Pless

Glenorchy Knights won their second match of the Forestry Tasmania Southern Premier League season to go to the top of the ladder with a maximum 6 points after downing New Town Eagles 4-3 at KGV Park on Friday night.

James Sherman celebrated his final game for the Knights before heading off to England to join non-league club Margate by scoring a hat-trick.

Sherman is a former Melbourne Knights and Whittlesea Zebras player.

Poor goalkeeping almost cost Knights the match as Eagles refused to surrender and got to within a goal of their opponents.

Knights took the lead with a penalty converted by Sherman after Eagles captain Chris Wass, who was playing his 150th game for the club, brought down Amadu Koroma.

Koroma, who has been linked with Melbourne Knights, was later injured in a tackle and took no further part in the match.

Before that set-back, however, Sherman made it 2-0 in the 23rd minute when he got on to the end of Koroma's left-wing cross and headed the ball down and it bounced over Eagles keeper Nathan Pitchford and into the far corner of the

net.

Three minutes later, hesitation by Knights keeper Alex Tatnell enabled Adam McKeown to nip in and head Steve Loudon's long ball forward into the net to reduce the arrears.

Sherman completed his hat-trick in the 43rd minute when Jacob Huigsloot nodded down Danny White's cross for him to hammer home.

A minute into stoppage time at the end of the first half, Josh Fielding's free-kick from deep on the left was headed down by substitute James Hope for Corey Smith to smash home and give the Knights a 4-1 lead.

Seconds before the interval, Eagles pulled another goal back to stay in the race. Tatnell allowed McKeown's shot to slip between his legs and beyond his grasp, enabling Alex Leszczynski to tap home an easy goal and make it 4-2.

Eagles contained the Knights in the second period and, with three minutes remaining, Wass headed home Shane Kent's free-kick to make it one goal the difference and provide for a tense finish. Newly promoted Tarooma went down 3-2 at home at Kelvedon Park to Tilford Zebras on Saturday in a controversial match.

Zebras took the lead through Dwayne Walsh in the 17th minute, although he looked a mile off-side. Referee Ivan



New Town Eagles...lost 4-3 to Glenorchy Knights
PHOTO: WALTER PLESS

Jozeljic consulted his assistant, Adrian Lockley, who had his flag raised, but then allowed the goal to stand.

Toby Dove equalised for the home side in the 21st minute, tapping home the rebound after Zebras keeper Troy Kaden turned Duncan Carey's shot against the crossbar.

Walsh restored Zebras' lead in the 25th

minute with an excellent header from Adam Young's cross, while 10 minutes later, Walsh rattled the Tarooma crossbar with a pile-driver from the edge of the box.

Garry Hamilton missed a sitter for Tarooma, while team-mate Hugo Luttmr was denied a penalty before the break.

Shortly after the resumption, Kaden

SOUTH						
	P	W	D	L	F	A Pts
Glenorchy Knights	1	1	0	0	5	1 3
Tarooma	1	1	0	0	3	1 3
K'borough Lions	1	1	0	0	3	2 3
South Hobart	1	0	1	0	1	1 1
Tilford Zebras	1	0	1	0	1	1 1
New Town Eagles	1	0	0	1	2	3 0
Hobart Olympia	1	0	0	1	1	3 0
Clarence United	1	0	0	1	1	5 0

did well to turn Duncan Carey's shot over the bar as Tarooma went in search of an equaliser.

But, Walsh took advantage of a ball that bounced over the advancing goal-keeper, Richard Nettlefold, to ram home the Zebras' third goal and complete his hat-trick in the 63rd minute.

Luttmr brought Tarooma back into contention in the 70th minute when he collected Duncan Carey's pass and gently lobbed the ball over Kaden, but the home side were unable to find an equaliser.

An own-goal by Ross Hinkley gave South Hobart a 1-0 win over Kingborough Lions United.



BLACKTOWN AND MARCONI SET PACE

By Mike Salter

After more draws at the top in the NSW Premier League, the Blacktown City Demons took the competition lead by emphatically defeating Sydney Olympic away from home. Details of that match can be found below.

Saturday's much-anticipated clash between reigning champions Sutherland and competition favourites Bonnyrigg ended in sensational fashion. After Sutherland's Nick Stavroulakis had opened the scoring, a controversially-awarded free kick in the final minute of added time produced the Bonnyrigg equaliser. There were ugly scenes following the final whistle, as the Sutherland players vented their frustration.

In Saturday's other match, Marconi added to APIA-Leichhardt's misery by consigning them to last place with a 2-1 home win in the "Italian derby". The Bossley Park club now sit level with Blacktown atop the table.

Sunday's matches featured plenty of goals and drama. Sydney United looked headed for a comfortable home win over the South Coast Wolves after scoring twice early in the first half, but a goal for the Wollongong side just after the hour gave them hope, and they managed to equalise in the last minute of injury time.

When Bankstown City fire, they turn on a proper football exhibition, as the hapless West Sydney Berries found. Blacktown thumped the Berries 5-1 at Jensen Park, a scoreline which may give Peter Tsekenis's side fresh impetus after a mediocre start to the season. Rockdale City and Manly United drew 1-1 in Sunday's other encounter.

Sydney Olympic 1-4 Blacktown City Demons

A naive and disjointed Sydney Olympic were comprehensively outplayed at

home by a Blacktown City side under the command of former Olympic coach Aytek Genc. It was sweet revenge for Genc, who left Olympic under unfortunate circumstances in 2009.

The hosts looked the better side in the opening minutes; a Chris Triants free kick was held by Mat Ryan on six minutes, and Olympic's midfield maestro was involved again a few minutes later when a cross from James Monie reached him in the centre. Struggling to get the ball onto his favoured right foot, he allowed himself to be closed down just in time.

Tolgay Ozbey, playing against his old club, gave an ominous warning of things to come on ten minutes when he stole the ball in midfield, surged down the right, and played the ball back neatly for yet another ex-Olympic man in Ante Deur. The latter, however, rolled his right-footed shot wide.

Ozbey began to impose himself on the game. Played in on the right by Mitchell Long on 11 minutes, he shot weakly at Zaim Zeneli, but on 14 minutes there was no denying the speedy forward as he thrust his way down the right again, leaving two defenders in his wake, before being clumsily upended by Zeneli in the box: penalty. Ozbey himself took it, blasting it confidently into the top left-hand corner.

On 23 minutes the visitors doubled their advantage. A foolish challenge by Josh Lawson gave Blacktown a free kick deep on the right; Lachlan Cahill swung the ball in, Zac Cairncross nodded back from the far post, and Deur this time made no mistake, heading into an empty net.

It should have been three on 28 minutes when Ozbey, inexplicably given the run of the country by the Olympic backline, again broke through on the right, but shot straight at Zeneli. Blacktown were now dictating matters, and it was something of a surprise when Olympic snatched a



Blacktown Demons are off and away in NSW.
PHOTO: CARLOS FURTADO

goal back after 35 minutes.

The hosts received a somewhat debatable free kick on the edge of the Blacktown area, and Matthew Mayora sent a scorching shot into the top right-hand corner of the goal. Game on once again.

The closing minutes of the half were fairly even, but shortly after the restart the visitors restored their two-goal buffer. Stealing the ball from Peter McPherson in midfield, Long slid a neat reverse ball through to Deur, who finished neatly with his right foot. 3-1 to Blacktown.

Ozbey got in behind the Olympic defence yet again on 56 minutes, but couldn't quite square the ball into the path of Long. Soon after the hour, Olympic created two good chances, but Monie sliced Emmanuel Giannaros's right-wing cutback over the bar, and Mayora headed over from Iain Ramsay's left-wing cross.

The game limped on, with Olympic not looking remotely likely to get back into

the match. Blacktown's forceful striker Luke Roodenburg entered the fray after 70 minutes, and four minutes later he showed his value in no uncertain terms. Taking up a clever position in the box, he met Brendan Maroney's cross with a beautifully-placed header into the far corner of the goal.

Blacktown had a chance to make it five when Ozbey, clean through the Olympic defence once more, squared the ball for another Blacktown substitute in Jordan Simpson. Slipping deftly around his man, the former Perth Glory midfielder curled a good-looking shot just wide.

It barely mattered, as Blacktown left Belmore in superb spirits, with Pat Marando left wondering how he can spark his misfiring Olympic side into renewed life.

LADDER						
	P	W	L	Pts		
Blacktown City FC	4	3	0	10		
Marconi Stallions	4	3	0	10		
Sydney United	4	2	0	8		
Bonnyrigg White Eagles	4	2	0	8		
Bankstown City	4	1	1	5		
Manly United FC	4	1	1	5		
Rockdale City Suns	4	1	1	5		
Sutherland Sharks	4	1	2	4		
Sydney Olympic	4	1	2	4		
West Sydney Berries	4	1	2	4		
South Coast Wolves	4	0	3	1		
APIA Leichhardt Tigers	4	0	4	0		

NSW RESULTS						
NSW PREMIER LEAGUE: ROUND 4: FIRST GRADE: Bonnyrigg White Eagles 1 (Vuko Tomasevic 92m) Sutherland Sharks 1 (Nicholas Stavroulakis 77m), Marconi Stallions 2 (Mitchell Mallia 16/46m) APIA Leichhardt Tigers 1 (Robert Younis 65m).Rockdale City Suns 1 (Mark Bariamis x 1) Manly United FC 1 (Adam Foti x 1), Sydney Olympic 1 (Matthew Mayora 36m) Blacktown City 4 (Tolgay Ozbey 16m Ante Deur 24/55m Luke Roodenburg 75m), Sydney United 2 (Mitchell Thompson 5m Elsid Barkhousir 20m) South Coast Wolves 2 (Tynan Diaz 70m Tayfun Buyukkopru 93m), West Sydney Berries 1 (Stefan De Jesus 70m) Bankstown City 5 (Richard Luksic 19m Hussein Salameh 50m Robert Milesic 41/76/81m).Rockdale City Suns 1 (Mark Bariamis x 1) Manly United FC 1 (Adam Foti x 1), Sydney Olympic 1 (Matthew Mayora 36m) Blacktown City 4 (Tolgay Ozbey 16m Ante Deur 24/55m Luke Roodenburg 75m), Sydney United 2 (Mitchell Thompson 5m Elsid Barkhousir 20m) South Coast Wolves 2 (Tynan Diaz 70m Tayfun Buyukkopru 93m), West Sydney Berries 1 (Stefan De Jesus 70m) Bankstown City 5 (Richard Luksic 19m Hussein Salameh 50m Robert Milesic 41/76/81m).						
GRADE 20: Bonnyrigg White Eagles 1 Sutherland Sharks 3, Marconi Stallions 0 APIA Leichhardt Tigers 0. GRADE 18: Bonnyrigg White Eagles 1 Sutherland Sharks 0, Marconi Stallions 1 APIA Leichhardt Tigers 2.						
GRADE 18: Bonnyrigg White Eagles 1 Sutherland Sharks 0, Marconi Stallions 1 APIA Leichhardt Tigers 2.						
NSW SUPER LEAGUE: ROUND 1: FIRST GRADE: Dulwich Hill 2 (J Lucas 81m pen/89m) Northern Tigers 1 (P Davies 53m), Macarthur Rams 2 (A Malmierca 40m D Cor-tez 60m) Spirit FC 2 (B Gough 34m S Mene-y 67m). GRADE 20: Dulwich Hill 0 Northern Tigers 2, Macarthur Rams 2 Spirit FC 2.						
STATE LEAGUE DIVISION ONE: ROUND 1: FIRST GRADE: Schofield Scorpions 4 (L Boyd 63m T Aitken 70m T Harrington 77m G Davi 86m) Hurstville ZFC 0, Mount-ies Wanderers 1 (J Bruni 88m) Inter Lions 3 (E Alpkaya 2m D Dimenro 6m N Rouco 58m), Blacktown Spartans 1 (R Iredale 33m) UNSW 1 (T Quilty 94m).						



ROUND 1
Bundaberg Spirit v NQ Razorbacks
Sat 27 Mar 7:00pm
Brisbane Strikers v Capricorn Cougars
Sat 27 Mar 7:00pm
Whitsunday Miners v QAS
Sat 27 Mar 7:30pm
Sunshine Coast FC v FNQ Bulls
Sun 28 Mar 2:30pm

ROUND 2
Capricorn Cougars v Whitsunday Miners
Fri 2 April 5:00pm
NQ Razorbacks v Brisbane Strikers
Sat 3 April 7:30pm
FNQ Bulls v Bundaberg Spirit
Sat 3 April 8:00pm
QAS v Sunshine Coast FC
Sun 4 April 4:00pm

ROUND 3
Whitsunday Miners v Brisbane Strikers
Sat 10 April 7:30pm
FNQ Bulls v NQ Razorbacks
Sat 10 April 8:00pm
Sunshine Coast FC v Capricorn Cougars
Sun 11 April 1:30pm
Bundaberg Spirit v QAS
Sun 11 April 3:00pm

ROUND 4
Capricorn Cougars v Bundaberg Spirit
Sat 17 April 7:00pm
Brisbane Strikers v Sunshine Coast FC
Sat 17 April 7:00pm
NQ Razorbacks v Whitsunday Miners
Sat 17 April 7:30pm
QAS v FNQ Bulls
Sun 18 April 2:00pm

ROUND 5
Bundaberg Spirit v Brisbane Strikers
Sat 24 April 7:00pm
FNQ Bulls v Capricorn Cougars
Sat 24 April 8:00pm
Sunshine Coast FC v Whitsunday Miners
Sun 25 April 1:30pm
QAS v NQ Razorbacks
Sun 25 April 2:00pm

ROUND 6
Brisbane Strikers v FNQ Bulls
Sat 1 May 7:00pm
Whitsunday Miners v Bundaberg Spirit
Sat 1 May 7:30pm
NQ Razorbacks v Sunshine Coast FC
Sat 1 May 7:30pm
Capricorn Cougars v QAS
Sun 2 May 2:00pm

ROUND 7
QAS v Brisbane Strikers
Sat 8 May 7:00pm
Capricorn Cougars v NQ Razorbacks
Sat 8 May 7:00pm
FNQ Bulls v Whitsunday Miners
Sat 8 May 8:00pm
Sunshine Coast FC v Bundaberg Spirit
Sun 9 May 4:00pm



Corey Brown (QAS) and Mitchell Broom (Bundaberg Spirit) compete for the ball.
PHOTO: BRETT MCDONALD

ROUND 8
NQ Razorbacks v Bundaberg Spirit
Sat 12 June 7:30pm
FNQ Bulls v Sunshine Coast FC
Sat 12 June 8:00pm
Capricorn Cougars v Brisbane Strikers
Sun 13 June 7:30pm
QAS v Whitsunday Miners
Sun 13 June 8:00pm

ROUND 9
Bundaberg Spirit v FNQ Bulls
Sat 19 June 7:00pm
Brisbane Strikers v NQ Razorbacks
Sat 19 June 7:30pm
Whitsunday Miners v Capricorn Cougars
Sat 19 June 8:00pm
QAS v Sunshine Coast FC
Sun 20 June 2:00pm
Sunshine Coast FC v QAS
Sun 20 June 2:30pm

ROUND 10
Brisbane Strikers v Whitsunday Miners
Sat 26 June 7:00pm
FNQ Bulls v NQ Razorbacks
Sat 26 June 7:30pm
Capricorn Cougars v Sunshine Coast FC
Sat 26 June 8:00pm
QAS v Bundaberg Spirit
Sun 27 June 2:00pm

ROUND 11
Capricorn Cougars v Bundaberg Spirit
Sat 3 July 7:00pm
Whitsunday Miners v NQ Razorbacks
Sat 3 July 7:30pm
FNQ Bulls v QAS
Sat 3 July 8:00pm
Sunshine Coast FC v Brisbane Strikers
Sun 4 July 2:30pm

ROUND 12
Brisbane Strikers v Bundaberg Spirit
Sat 12 June 7:00pm
Capricorn Cougars v FNQ Bulls
Sat 12 June 7:30pm
NQ Razorbacks v QAS
Sat 12 June 8:00pm
Whitsunday Miners v Sunshine Coast FC
Sun 13 June 2:00pm

ROUND 13
Bundaberg Spirit v Whitsunday Miners
Sat 19 June 7:00pm
FNQ Bulls v Brisbane Strikers
Sat 19 June 7:30pm
QAS v Capricorn Cougars
Sat 19 June 8:00pm
Sunshine Coast FC v NQ Razorbacks
Sun 20 June 2:00pm

ROUND 14
Bundaberg Spirit v Sunshine Coast FC
Sat 26 June 7:00pm
Brisbane Strikers v QAS
Sat 26 June 7:30pm
Whitsunday Miners v FNQ Bulls
Sat 26 June 8:00pm
NQ Razorbacks v Capricorn Cougars
Sun 27 June 2:00pm

ROUND 15
Brisbane Strikers v Capricorn Cougars
Sat 3 July 7:00pm
Bundaberg Spirit v NQ Razorbacks
Sat 3 July 7:30pm
Whitsunday Miners v QAS
Sat 3 July 8:00pm
Sunshine Coast FC v FNQ Bulls
Sun 4 July 2:30pm

ROUND 16
NQ Razorbacks v Brisbane Strikers
Sat 10 July 7:30pm
FNQ Bulls v Bundaberg Spirit
Sat 10 July 8:00pm
Capricorn Cougars v Whitsunday Miners
Sun 11 July 2:00pm
QAS v Sunshine Coast FC
Sun 11 July 4:00pm

ROUND 17
NQ Razorbacks v FNQ Bulls
Sat 17 July 7:30pm
Whitsunday Miners v Brisbane Strikers
Sun 18 July 2:00pm
Sunshine Coast FC v Capricorn Cougars
Sun 18 July 1:30pm
Bundaberg Spirit v QAS
Sun 18 July 3:00pm

ROUND 18
Brisbane Strikers v Sunshine Coast FC
Sat 24 July 7:00pm
NQ Razorbacks v Whitsunday Miners
Sat 24 July 7:30pm
QAS v FNQ Bulls
Sun 25 July 2:00pm
Bundaberg Spirit v Capricorn Cougars
Sun 25 July 3:00pm

ROUND 19
FNQ Bulls v Capricorn Cougars
Sat 31 Jul 8:00pm
Sunshine Coast FC v Whitsunday Miners
Sun 1 Aug 1:30pm
Bundaberg Spirit v Brisbane Strikers
Sun 1 Aug 3:00pm
QAS v NQ Razorbacks
Sun 1 Aug 2:00pm

ROUND 20
Brisbane Strikers v FNQ Bulls
Sat 7 Aug 7:00pm
Capricorn Cougars v QAS
Sat 7 Aug 7:00pm
Whitsunday Miners v Bundaberg Spirit
Sat 7 Aug 7:30pm
NQ Razorbacks v Sunshine Coast FC
Sat 7 Aug 7:30pm

ROUND 21
FNQ Bulls v Whitsunday Miners
Sat 14 Aug 8:00pm
QAS v Brisbane Strikers
Sat 14 Aug 7:00pm
Capricorn Cougars v NQ Razorbacks
Sat 14 Aug 7:00pm
Bundaberg Spirit v Sunshine Coast FC
Sun 15 Aug 3:00pm

FINALS SERIES

SEMI FINAL - 21/22 Aug
Team 1 v Team 2
Team 3 v Team 4

PRELIMINARY FINAL - 4/5 Sep
Loser 1 v 2 plays Winner 3 v 4

GRAND FINAL - 11/12 Sep
Winner 1 v 2 Semi Winner Preliminary Final

QLD STATE LEAGUE VENUES

Brisbane Strikers
Perry Park, Albion, Brisbane

Bundaberg Spirit
Martens Oval, Bundaberg

Whitsunday Miners
Magpies, Glenella Road, Glenella

Sunshine Coast FC
Stockland Park, Nicklin Way, Kawana

Capricorn Cougars
Jardine Park, Wandal Road, Rockhampton

FN Queensland Bulls
Borzi Park, Chewko Road, Mareeba

NQ Razorbacks
Brolga Park, Murray Lyons Cres, Annandale, Townsville

Qld Academy of Sport
Lions Stadium, 133 Pine Road, Richlands

WHITEHEATHER NEWS, 131 GEORGE ST, BRISBANE
CITY NEWS, CNR EAGLE & CHARLOTTE STS, AMP BUILDING, BRISBANE
MARA NEWS, SHOP 2, CREST INT HOTEL, ROMA ST, BRISBANE
SUNCORP CENTRE NEWS, SUNCORP METWAY PLAZA, ALBERT ST, BRISBANE
NEWSXPRESS CITY PLAZA , GPO NEWS, CREEK ST, BRISBANE
LUCKY GOLDEN GOOSE NEWS, 140 ADELAIDE ST, BRISBANE
LUCKY GOLDMINE N/A, ADELAIDE ST & CNR EDWARD ST, BRISBANE
GEORGE ST NEWS, 370 GEORGE ST, BRISBANE

CITY MALL NEWS, QUEEN ST MALL, BRISBANE
PERRY HOUSE NEWS, CNR ALBERT & ELIZABETH STS, BRISBANE
WINTERGARDEN NEWS, SHOP 166 WINTERGARDEN CENTRE, QUEEN ST MALL ELIZABETH ST ENT, BRISBANE,
CENTRAL STATION SUPA, CENTRAL STATION CONCOURSE , ANN ST, BRISBANE
MACS ONE NEWS, NEWSPAPER HOUSE, 289 QUEEN ST, BRISBANE
LUCKY CHINAMAN NEWS, 380 QUEEN ST, BRISBANE
MIDAS CASKET AGENCY, THE FOYER, 363 ADELAIDE ST, BRISBANE
TRANSIT CENTRE NEWS, 3RD LEVEL BRISBANE

TRANSIT CNT, ROMA ST, BRISBANE
EAGLE STREET NEWS, GROUND FLOOR, 70 EAGLE ST, BRISBANE
POST OFFICE SQUARE NEWS, POST OFFICE SQUARE, QUEEN ST, BRISBANE
TERRACE NEWS, 149 WICKHAM TCE, BRISBANE
MARY STREET NEWS, 100 EDWARD ST, BRISBANE
PAPERMAN SUPANEWS, MYER CENTRE QUEEN ST, BRISBANE
TERRICA PLACE NEWS, AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT CENTRE, 140 CREEK ST, BRISBANE
MYER CENTRE SUPANEWS, LEVEL E, MYER CENTRE, QUEEN ST, BRISBANE
BROADWAY SUPA NEWS, LG12 BRDWAY ON THE

MALL, QUEEN ST, BRISBANE
CIVIC ARCADE N/A, SHOP 1, CIVIC ARCADE, 65 ADELAIDE ST, BRISBANE
ALBERT STREET NEWS, 80 ALBERT ST, BRISBANE
MINERAL HOUSE NEWS, 41 GEORGE ST, BRISBANE
GPO NEWS, 40 CREEK ST, BRISBANE
RANKINS ON THE MALL, CNR QUEEN & ALBERT STS, QUEEN ST MALL, BRISBANE
A28 SUPANEWS BRISANE SQUARE, SHOPS 17&18 BRISBANE SQUARE, GEORGE ST, BRISBANE
SUPA NEWS, SHOP GF28, BRDWAY ON THE MALL, 170 QUEEN ST, BRISBANE



QUEENSLAND PREPARES FOR KICK OFF!

By Jarrod Ellis

AFTER an offseason that saw three clubs pull out of the QSL, due largely to financial concerns and with allegations of broken promises coming in from disgruntled club chairman it will be a relief to many to in the Queensland football community to finally get back to on the pitch matters when the 2010 season kicks off on March 27th.

The 2010 Hyundai QSL will now consist of only eight teams and a twenty-one round regular season. With Olympic, Logan United and Redlands City Devils all having withdrawn from the league Brisbane are left with only two representatives, Brisbane Strikers and the youngsters at the Queensland Academy of Sport. This should provide hope and renewed endeavour from the regional sides as the finals race should be thrown wide open.

2010 also sees the introduction of a QSL U/19 Youth League, providing an elite pathway into the sport for youngsters.

Brisbane Strikers will once again start the season as favourites for the title with Sunshine Coast their only clear rivals. Dark horses for the title include the NQ Razorbacks and Capricorn Cougars, whilst the others will be hoping to challenge for a finals spot in the revamped league.

Brisbane Strikers

2009 – 1st (Grand Final Runners Up)

Coach – Stuart McLaren

Captain – Ben Griffin

Player to Watch – Ben Griffin

Home Ground – Perry Park

The Strikers will start the 2010 QSL season as firm favourites to take out the title, Sunshine Coast seeming like their only legitimate rival for the crown at this point in time. Of course being favourites on paper doesn't win titles as Brisbane found out to its detriment in the 2009 QSL Grand Final as they were shocked by Redlands City Devils 4-1 in a memorable final at Perry Park.

That defeat will be fresh in the mind of Stuart McLaren as his charges line up this Saturday to take on Capricorn Cougars. Due largely to the uncertainty around the QSL's future several members of the Strikers squad departed in the offseason but the club has put in the time and signed some able replacements along with promoting youth. Former Brisbane Roar defender Ben Griffin, Rylan Sadler and Sean Burke are the three big name signings for the Strikers this season and all three are expected to have a telling impact on their new side's results.

After losing club captain Matt Smith to the North Queensland Fury the Strikers were in dire need of an accomplished defender and in Griffin they believe they've found that. Though largely used at right back for the Roar Griffin will be moved into his natural position of central defence, a position change McLaren believes will reap dividends for his side.

Brisbane Strikers Squad:
Seb Usai, Brendan White, Ryan Motilin , Matija Simic, Myles Carseldine, Jason Shade, Brad McDonald, Chay Hews, Jordan Mason, Michael Angus, Matt Christensen, Sean Burke, Reagan Alder
Rylan Sadler, Gareth Musson, Chris Di Sipio, Jordan Farina, Matt Thurtell, Ben Griffin



QSL action between the QAS and Bundaberg Spirit
 PHOTO: BRETT MCDONALD

Bundaberg Spirit

2009 – 11th

Coach – Richard Mitchell

Captain – Brett Kitching

Player to Watch – Kevin Clarke

Home Ground – Martens Oval

QSL whipping boys Bundaberg Spirit will be hoping that a raft of offseason changes will bring results after finishing bottom of the ladder for the second year running in 2009, whilst conceding an average of 4.75 goals a game.

Ryan Mitchell has taken over the reigns as Coach for the season, becoming the clubs fourth man in charge in nine months, including his own brief interim reign last season. Mitchell is held in high regard and has brought on board Tony Roebuck as Assistant Coach, a move that the club and Mitchell in particular believes will yield results.

There was another change at the top of the club with David Hillier moving into the Club President role. Segments of the Bundaberg football community have cited this as a major positive in helping to attract the regions best players to the club

The squad for 2010 has seen several changes, big things will be expected of Sunshine Coast recruit Kevin Clarke whilst it's hoped that locals Robert Thatcher, Tom Kimber, John Brillante and Corey Haak will provide some impetus for the club to climb the ladder.

Provisional Bundaberg Spirit Squad:
Lucas Read, Brett Kitching, Laurie Stephenson, Elliot Causer, Kevin Clarke, Aaron Bakker, Robert Thatcher, Shane Youngberry, Corey Haack, John Brillante, Tom Kimber, Jason McEwan

Capricorn Cougars

2009 – 9th

Coach – Brad Smith

Captain – N/A

Player to Watch – Tristan Fraser

Home Ground – Ryan Park

The Cougars are one of the few remaining sides to nominate a squad for 2010 but from all indications coach Brad Smith is expecting to retain his 2009 team in entirety. Notable exceptions to

that of course being captain Roy Bob and Craig Porter, both of whom retired after the 2009 campaign. UK import Dave Thomas heads a strong defence that supports solid midfielders, through to the "formidable" attacking duo of Jamie Morris and Tristan Fraser.

The club have moved grounds to Ryan Park, after having played their two previous seasons in the QSL out of Jardine Park. Smith sees that as a major positive for the club, "It's the best field and is in the middle of where people are," he said. "Ryan Park also has better seating"

FNQ Bulls

2009 – 7th

Coach – Peter Tokesi

Captain – Victor Madrid

Player to Watch – George Koroma

Home Ground – Borzi Park

The Bulls had a difficult debut QSL season in 2009, finishing seventh on the ladder, ten points and a sizeable goal difference off a finals berth. With the change in league structure and a seasons experience under their belts this year though, they'll be hoping for a marked improvement.

Coach Peter Tokesi and his assistant Tony Panetta provide the club with a wealth of experience on the bench and have steered the club through a reasonably solid pre-season. 2009 captain Victor Madrid has returned and should prove a steady presence in defence and should push him claim forward as being the best defender in the league.

Defenders around Queensland will be dismayed to hear that 32-year old winger George Koroma, 2009's QSL Rookie of the Year, is back for the Mareeba side and is hoping to improve on his impressive debut season. "Next season I want to step it up a bit and try and get the MVP or Golden Boot, I want to keep it going and get better and try and get something every year."

Provisional FNQ Bulls squad:
Jack Richards (g/k), Cameron Morrison, Jamie Wilesmith, Kane Alderton, Shaun Owens, Bronson Koppen, Victor Madrid, Glenn Hurney, Dennis Allen, David Ruiz, George Slefendorfas, George Koroma, Alex Plowman, Joe Rusch, Nathan Bird, Mickel Brecken-

ridge (gk), Nick Notaras, Steven Dan-gaard (g/k).

NQ Razorbacks

2009 – 5th

Coach – Ken Mitchell

Captain – N/A

Player to Watch – Chris Scuderi

Home Ground – Brolga Park

The Razorbacks will be one of the sides seeking to capitalise on the smaller league this season after only narrowing missing out on the finals last year. Coach David Mitchell has worked hard on developing a winning culture at the club and the Razorbacks could become the first side outside of the south-east region of the state to establish themselves as a real force.

Much of 2009's squad is returning, though captain Paul Sapelli has moved on. Chris Scuderi and Jake Navarro should again prove to be crucial to their side's fortunes as they aim to return to the level of success they enjoyed in 2008 when they reached the Preliminary Final.

Big things are expected of promising youngster David Han who moved up to Townsville from Sydney and has managed to secure himself a place in the squad on the back of some stellar trial performance. Jacob Timpano is the club's biggest name signing for the season. The former Sydney FC and Australian U-23 defender has struggled with injury for the past four years and has been loaned to the club by the North Queensland Fury.

NQ Razorbacks Squad
Kieran Gonzales, Michael Lancini, Lee Mayberry, Joshua Searle, Jake Navarro, David Mayes, Anthony Galliozzi, Aaron Walker, Nathan Whitton, Chris Scuderi, Jacob Timpano, Brett Hay, Lorenzo Sipi, David Han, Michael Coppo, Jacob Crowley, Mitchell Robinson, Branden Holt, Guy Bimrose, Ben West, Reaghan Cruz, David Bowater

Sunshine Coast FC

2009 – 3rd (Semi-Finals)

Coach – Aston Bell

Captain – N/A

Player to Watch – Tyson Holmes

Home Ground – Stockland Park

Sunshine Coast are likely to contend for the title of QSL Champion once again in 2010 after finishing 3rd last season before going out to eventual champions Redlands City Devils in the minor semi-final. For most sides that would have been a good showing but not for the Fire and things could have turned out very differently if not for a dreadful run of results in the first half of the season.

New Head Coach Aston Bell will be the man in charge of avoiding such a pitfall again this season, having taken over from George Cowie. Bell will command a side that remains much the same as last season with a few notable changes. 2009 captain Ryan Smith won't be returning for the 2010 season but the Fire's experience squad is expected to be able to adapt quickly to his absence.

Shaun Blackman is once again expected to give defences a torrid time with his all-round ability up front, however its youngster Tyson Holmes who is the sides star attraction. The young attacking midfielder was name league MVP

in 2009 after a string of dazzling performances, earning himself a training spot with the Brisbane Roar later in the year. Having gained that experience he could continue with his growth as a player but may come under more scrutiny this season from the opposition.

Sunshine Coast FC Squad:
Antony Hall, Jai Cross, Greig Henslee, Shaun Blackman, Tyson Holmes, Sam Knight, Raymond Schultz, David Muta, Joachim Waroi, Yuta Gonai, Aaron Brazendale, Markus Kronblad, Mark Riley, Andy Wood, James Stinson, Corey Towle, Jonathan Rose.

Queensland Academy of Sport

2009 – 8th

Coach – David Abela

Captain – N/A

Player to Watch – N/A

Home Ground – Meakin Park

The QAS are one of the sides who were greatly affected by the uncertainty surrounding the status of the QSL for 2010. A squad to compete in the league is yet to be announced and with the beginning of the Rebel Sport Junior Premier League in Brisbane it's been speculated that some players may have left the program. Along with that, several eligible players were until recently still involved in the A-League Youth Finals leaving any possible role for the QAS uncertain. With those factors taken into account it's likely that the QAS side will once again be competitive, but faced with the prospect of going up against bigger, more experienced opponents it will come as a surprise if they can do more than challenge for one of the lower finals berths.

Whitsunday Miners

2009 – 10th

Coach – John Sowter

Captain – Troy Mundy

Player to Watch – Tyson Masters

Home Ground – Magpies

The Whitsunday Miners will be hoping for a change of fortune this season after enduring some tough times for the past two seasons. In 2009 the Miners struggled to get away from the foot of the table and if not for an absolutely dire Bundaberg team would have finished bottom of the league.

A change of coach and the introduction of several new players into the squad points to a possible upturn in fortunes for the league minnows. John Sowter has taken charge of the club after moving up from NSW and has supporters of the club hopeful of challenging for a finals spot.

The Miners struggled to score goals in 2009 and have looked to address that deficiency with the signing of several new players, the standouts being ex Marconi youngster Rick De Boer and new striker Tyson Masters. Masters has reportedly looked sharp during pre season and has fans hoping that their side's woes in front of goal will be coming to an end.

Whitsunday Miners Squad:
Troy Mundy, Brad Moss, Brett Gutteridge, Kyle McBurney, Corey Hooper, Daniel Scotton, Brett Neeve, Ben Schaper , Graham Harvey, Mark Rhodes, Tyson Masters, Eddy Skein, Rick DeBoer, Sam Petersen, Joey Civello, Stewart Watkins, Oliver Mortensen.

Red Devils clip Eagles' wings

By Nat Adamopoulos

Campbelltown City kicked off their 2010 Super League season with a tight 1-0 victory over Adelaide Blue Eagles at Marden Sports Complex, with vice captain Domenic Signorello scoring the winner.

The first ten minutes of the match saw both sides having chances to open their tally for the year, Blue Eagles men up front Chad Bugeja, Fortunato Filletti and Evan Kounavelis missing their opportunities while seasoned veteran Jason Trimboli and high tower Alor Bulabek not able to convert for the Red Devils. With the Eagles missing key player Saranti Parissos serving a lengthy 8 week suspension from last season and young keeper Lucas Andreucci debuting between the sticks, the first 45 minutes saw Campbelltown come out with the upper hand on Blue Eagles. The devils movement with the ball was a very effective style of game, particularly the performances of Signorello, Stephen Piotto, Aaron Taye and Ali Toure providing great supply to their men up front. On the half hour that midfield was rewarded, with Signorello executing a 1-2 with Piotto, who's pass in to his vice captain split through four Eagles players for Signorello to poke past the unsighted Andreucci. The Red Devils continued strongly for the remainder of the first half, but did come up against a strong Eagles backline which kept the score at 1-0 going into the half time break.

Blue Eagles intention was made obvious with the start of the second half, playing hard on the ball and penetrating football to get the ball up front to their strikers to try to produce the equalizer. The talented Kounavelis had multiple chances to score but seemed hesitant to pull the trigger, too many times trying to walk the ball into the box where he came up against a brick wall in the Red Devils defence. The Eagles continued to press the ball throughout the second half but were consistently checked by the Red Devils, their defence rock solid and keeper Les Pogliacomì, although not having too much to do, maintaining a clean sheet. The few times that Campbelltown did get the ball down in their final third, the Blue Eagles defence also were able to absorb the pressure with the experienced Dean Kenrick, Gianluca Lagati and youngster Johnnie Giannitto performing well. For the Red Devils, Captain Michael D'Alosio and Signorello had another rock solid match but particular mention has to be made of defender Luca DiGirolami, who this season has come up through the ranks of the club and has been playing out of skin a most impressive game, like a defender with years of senior experience and definitely one to watch as a future club champion.

At the Paddocks on Saturday night, a 10 man Para Hills Knights and a full strength Adelaide Croatia Raiders played out a hard fought 1 all draw to open up their respective seasons. With the Adelaide United Youth Team players starting to trickle back to their respective clubs,



Foxes tall timber Damien Puyenbroek looks on as teammate Shaun Smith gives some close attention to Cobras Captain Paul Karittevlis. PHOTO: ADAM BUTLER

both teams saw their sides boosted, mid-fielder Kingsley Francis for Raiders and Alex Sunasky for the Knights. It was as they say a 'classic game of two halves', Raiders capitalizing in the first 45 minutes and the Knights with a very physical approach to the match making their presence felt in the second half. Young Raiders players Craig Goodwin and Sean Brennan were on the wrong end of some very close attention early on from Knights care of Russell Clayton and Michael Bounds. The visitors were provided with several chances to score first, Michael Cavallaro and Mimi Saric both having their fair share of the pickings along with Richie Alagich but not getting any results for their hard work. The Knights with dual strikeforce of Rhys Townsend and Russell Clayton were in the mix to score, the latter dishing out some tough tackles on those who came to challenge. With 15 minutes left to go in the opening stanza, a classic bit of play between Raiders experienced men of Todd McSorley, Matthew Muscroft and Richie Alagich broke the deadlock. It began with McSorley in a 1-2 with Alagich, then switching play across to Muscroft who tapped on to Alagich, turning on the ball and firing in one of his classic rocket shots that beat keeper Ben Moore comprehensively, taking the visitors one goal up going into the changerooms. Midway through the second half after some contention by the officials, young Troy Rutter notched up his second yellow card taking the Knights down to 10 men but bringing out a raw

determination in the side. Para Hills continued to exert their physicality on the Raiders who started to lose formation, with the ultimate reward coming from a goal from new signing Brett Selgar after a turnover of the ball that saw him barge through the Raiders defence and strike with true force to beat keeper Jason Delfos. The momentum continued with the Knights looking like they could steal a win but with the final whistle the match ending all drawn.

Other matches from around the grounds saw both newly promoted Premier league clubs Cumberland Foxes and Adelaide Cobras duel it out between each other, the Foxes coming out eventual winners in an exciting 3-2 victory. A-League signing for the Cobras Ang Costanzo is yet to take to the pitch, but hopes to do so in the coming weeks after recovering from a recent corrective operation. Captain Paul Karittevlis made his mark for his new club being amongst the best players on the day. A match that saw plenty of flexing of muscles, quite a bit or argy-bargy towards the end calling for order to be restored by the referee. Disappointment for Cumberland with their captain courageous Danny Graystone coming down on his leg and sustaining a hamstring injury that may see him out for at least 4 weeks. Goal scorers for Cumberland were Macdonald, Carter and Briscoe while for the Cobras, talents Jimmy Okello and Omary Katuka both opened their accounts. Westerns Strikers hosted Adelaide Gal-

axy at Carnegie Reserve resulting in a narrow loss of 2-1 in what was another tight match of the round. Galaxy coach Carl Maynard admitting it was not a easy win but happy to come away with the 3 points. Goalscorers for Galaxy were returning Adelaide United player Joe Wright and youngster Jake Markham while for Strikers, UK import Callum Flanagan proved his worth by producing the goods for his first goal on foreign soil.

2009 Grand finalists Adelaide City will host Champions MetroStars in the blockbuster grand final re-match on Monday night at Adelaide City Park. Round 1 last year saw Metrostars come away with a 1-0 win over City, with a spectacular backwards scissor kick goal coming from James Yong.. City's new signing Daniel Spagnuolo will be facing



LADDER									
	P	W	D	L	F	A	G	D	Pts
Cumberland Utd	1	1	0	0	3	2	1	3	
Adelaide Galaxy	1	1	0	0	2	1	1	3	
Campbelltown	1	1	0	0	1	0	1	3	
Raiders	1	0	1	0	1	1	0	1	
Para Hills	1	0	1	0	1	1	0	1	
Adelaide Cobras	1	0	0	1	2	3	-1	0	
Western Strikers	1	0	0	1	1	2	-1	0	
Adelaide Blues Eagles	1	0	0	1	0	1	-1	0	
Adelaide City	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
MetroStars	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	

SA RESULTS									
DEVINE HOMES SUPER LEAGUE									
Adelaide Blue Eagles 0 Campbelltown City 1 (D.Signoriello) (HT 0-1) Best - Blue Eagles (D.DiMella, D.Kenrick, J.Giannitto) Campbelltown (D.Signoriello, L.DiGirolami, S.Piotto) Res - Blue Eagles 1 Campbelltown 0 U19 - Blue Eagles 0 Campbelltown 5									
Cumberland United 3 (R.Macdonald, D.Carter, T.Briscoe) Adelaide Cobras 2 (J.Okello, O.Katuka) (HT 2-0) Best - Cumberland (T.Briscoe, N.Young R.Lippett) Cobras (P.Karattevlis, R.Calabria, P.Marino) Res - Cumberland 4 Cobras 3 U19 - Cumberland 5 Cobras 0									
Western Strikers 1 (C.Flanagan) Adelaide Galaxy 2 (J.Wright, M.Markham) (HT 0-1) Best - Strikers (S.McNeill, C.Noujaim, Y.Sudic) Galaxy (M.Doyle, T.Dittmar, M.Debono) Res - Strikers 4 Galaxy 4 U19 - Strikers 3 Galaxy 1									
Para Hills 1 (B.Selga) Raiders 1 (R.Alagich) (HT 0-1) Best - Para Hills (S.Tobias, A.Mullen, B.Selga) Raiders (R.Alagich, A.Jerkic, A.Acton) Res - Para Hills 1 Raiders 2 U19 - Para Hills 3 Raiders 1									
Adelaide City vs MetroStars 7:30pm - Monday 22nd March Adelaide City Park, Cnr Hilltop Drive & Fosters Rd, OAKDEN Res - Adel City 0 MetroStars 2 U19 - Adel City 2 MetroStars 3									

up to play against his old teammates and punters will wait with baited breath to see how these top two sides will face up. Metrostars coach David Terminello will be hoping for a first up win for his Super League coaching debut.

More SA
Round 1
action between
Cumberland
and Adelaide
Cobras
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Athena burst out of the blocks

By Jacob Kragi

Floreat Athena announced its title credentials with a 6-1 victory over Mandurah City in the opening round of the Football West State Premier League.

John Migas and Daniel Neiderberger scored twice each for Athena to take the score to 4-0 after 59 minutes, before James Isaia and Miki Vujacic scored at the death. Luke Bowyer scored Mandurah's only goal.

The two sides met in the minor semi-final last year, with Floreat winning 2-1, although it showed a much bigger gap will exist between the two sides this season.

New coach, former Perth Glory defender Ante Kovacevic, who took over from Michael Roki, will be delighted to get such an emphatic win in his first league start.

In contrast, Stuart Young's side showed it will struggle to meet the high standards it set in its first two seasons in the top division, with several key departures following a troublesome time for the club clearly taking their toll.

Balcatta won its first match in the Premier League, defeating Armadale 2-1 in an impressive performance.

Ashley Rosendale opened the scoring after 13 minutes for the newly promoted side, before scoring again from the penalty spot two minutes later.

Former Glory forward James Robinson got Armadale back in the match when he converted a 79th minute penalty, but Balcatta were able to hold onto three points that could prove vital later in the season. Survival is the main aim for Salv Todaro's Balcatta side and this performance against a side tipped to be in the relegation fight showed it has a very good chance of achieving that.

Armadale coach Brad Hassell will be frustrated his side missed a good opportunity for three points, but will be confident his side will improve as the season progresses after adding several players in the off-season.



WA Round one action from Stirling's 1-0 win over Swan United. PHOTO: FOOTBALL WEST

Last year's losing Grand Finalists, Western Knights, threw away the lead twice with Sorrento holding it to a 2-2 draw.

Anthony Campbell gave Knights the lead 13 minutes in before Adam Hayton levelled 14 minutes later. New recruit Simon Versaico took the lead back four minutes after the restart, but Hayton was the hero for the visitors once more, pinching a point for the Gulls with a goal just one minute later.

Paul Price's Western Knights outfit had been expected to comfortably beat Sorrento, who are tipped to be in the relegation fight this season, but a spirited per-

formance from the northern suburbs side and missed opportunities for the Knights led to the surprise result.

Inglewood United took advantage of missed opportunities by ECU Joondalup to win 2-0 at Clipsal Stadium. ECU missed two penalties in the highly controversial match, allowing United to claim the points through goals from Mladen Kovacevic in the eighth minute and Albert Osei-Tutu in the 51st.

Stirling Lions looked comfortable in a 1-0 away victory over Swan United. The Lions were knocked out of the finals by Mandurah in the first round last season

and showed it could improve on that this season with a solid performance, despite the absence of stars like Steve Hesketh and Dean Evans due to Glory's appearance in the Youth League Grand Final. Tom Ingram got the only goal of the match in the fourth minute against a Swan side predicted by many to struggle to stay up this season.

In the Sunday fixture, a Robert Sciascia goal in the 78th minute got Perth SC a 2-1 victory over Cockburn City. Cockburn was in control of the second half after it levelled from the penalty spot in the 67th minute, but was caught on

the break during its dominance allowing Sciascia to rescue Perth from an unlikely draw.

Perth took the lead initially through Greg Sharland, who was one of its best players, when he was played through and finished beautifully, despite furious calls for offside from City coach Scott Miller. Miller will rue that his side controlled the match for so long but rarely troubled the Perth 'keeper, while the winning coach, Graham Normanton, was clearly relieved to take the three points despite an unconvincing performance.

LADDER										
	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts		
1 Floreat Athena	1	1	0	0	6	1	5	3		
2 Inglewood United	1	1	0	0	2	0	2	3		
3 Balcatta	1	1	0	0	2	1	1	3		
4 Stirling Lions	1	1	0	0	1	0	1	3		
5 Mandurah City	1	0	0	1	1	0	1	0		
6 Western Knights	1	0	1	0	2	2	0	1		
7 Sorrento	1	0	1	0	2	2	0	0		
8 Armadale	1	0	0	1	1	2	-1	0		
9 Swan United	1	0	0	1	0	1	-1	0		
10 ECU Joondalup	1	0	0	1	0	2	-2	0		
11 Perth SC *	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
12 Cockburn City *	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		

WA RESULTS										
Armadale 1 (Robinson 80,)Balcatta 2(Rosendale 13, 17,); Swan United 0 Stirling Lions 1 (Ingram 14,); Western Knights 2 (Campbell 14, Versaico 49,) Sorrento 2 (Hayton 28, 50,); Inglewood Utd. 2 (Kovacevic 8, Ossituto 51,) ECU Joondalup 0; Floreat Athena 6 (Migus 3, Mirvcic 16, 59, Neiderberger 35, Isaia 86, Vujacic 90,) Mandurah City 1 (Bower 89,).										
Reserves Armadale 1 Balcatta 6; Swan United 1 Stirling Lions 1; Western Knights 1 Sorrento 5; Inglewood Utd. 0 ECU Joondalup 2; Floreat Athena 2 Mandurah City 2.										
Under 18's Armadale 1 Balcatta 6; Swan United 3 Stirling Lions 3; Western Knights 4 Sorrento 0; Inglewood Utd. 3 ECU Joondalup 3; Floreat Athena 6 Mandurah City 1.										



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Heavyweights on course for final showdown

By Russ Gibbs

Canberra football heavyweights Canberra FC and Belconnen United are set for a Project Coordination Federation Cup Grand Final collision course following the quarter final action over the weekend across the ACT.

Cup holders, Canberra FC, face ANU FC in their semi-final clash on Wednesday knowing that victory will give them the chance to defend the crown won on a penalty shoot-out against Canberra Olympic last year.

Canberra FC was far too slick for a spirited, yet outgunned Canberra City, in the last eight fixture at Hawker Football Centre on Sunday afternoon winning 3-0. The 2009 treble champions had been on the back foot from the opening as City pressed for an upset but two goals in three minutes before half-time condemned the underdogs to defeat.

Three minutes before half-time a swift break led to captain Paul Ivanic laying off a wonderful pass into the path of Ivan Pavlak and the winger did the rest rifling a low drive into the bottom corner of the net past a despairing James Ward in the City goal to give Canberra FC the lead. Having conceded so close to the interval City were distraught to go into the break 2-0 adrift.

John Glass, scorer of the winning goal in the 2009 ACT Grand Final, arrowed a run down the right channel and pulled the ball back to the onrushing Aidan Brunskill whose first time shot fortuitously deflected in off the stomach of Michael Spaleta giving the striker his fifth tournament goal.

After the interval City pressed to get back into the match with danger man Pat Ross-Magee battling hard and came close to reducing the deficit when Misko Naumoski cut inside only to see his low drive swerve away from the target.

Canberra FC confirmed their semi-final spot with a third goal two minutes from time. Substitute Victor Yanes combined well with Adam Spaleta in midfield as Spaleta fired a rasping shot towards goal. The diving Ward could only parry the stinging drive and Josip Jadric gleefully rammed in the loose ball to seal the 3-0 win.

Their opponents in the last four will be ANU FC as the university-based side sprung something of an upset with a commanding 2-0 victory over Cooma Tigers. The more experienced Tigers outfit had been expected to make it through, but it was the stylish youngsters who prevailed, clinically despatching two chances close to half-time via Tom McLachlan and Futsalroo international Tom Rogic, to claim an excellent victory for John Mitchell's team.

Earlier on Saturday Goulburn Strikers booked their semi-final place with an amazing 6-2 win over Woden Valley At Woden Enclosed. The Premier League newcomers wasted little time in getting down to business with prolific strike pairing Daniel Aliffi and Brody Willis both netting inside the first seven minutes. Woden weren't to be brushed aside that easily though and struck back ten minutes later through Simon Hinde.

Pat Ryan restored the Strikers two goal advantage after 28 minutes before Cameron Gordon struck another Woden response five minutes later to make the score 3-2. Incredibly the Strikers went straight up the other end and were awarded a penalty, which Daniel Aliffi converted, to complete a bizarre opening 35 minutes with Goulburn leading 4-2. In the second-half the match settled down a little and further foals from Sam Tyler and Blayne Hudson secured a memorable 6-2 triumph.

The Strikers reward is a semi-final on Wednesday evening with Belconnen United who look in irrepressible form heading into the match after demolishing Canberra Olympic 4-0 despite playing over 45 minutes of the match with ten men following the dismissal of 2009 ACT Golden Boot, David Leet, for dissent.

Earlier, the Blue Devils had taken the lead after in-form striker Tai Smith headed a bouncing ball over his marker and took advantage of some indecisive goalkeeping from Olympic shot-stopper Angelo Konstantinou to lob the ball into the net.

After Leet was dismissed most onlookers would have expected Olympic to find a foothold in the encounter, however it was Belconnen who made light of disadvantage of being a man down to double

their tally in the sixtieth minute. Smith's shot on the turn was blocked by Konstantinou but fell kindly for David Kemp to blast into the unguarded goal.

With Olympic streaming forward in an attempt to redeem the situation the Blue Devils ruthlessly exposed their lack of pace at the back to grab a third after superb interplay between Smith and Cameron Reinhart afforded the latter the time and space to clip a clinical finish past the stranded Konstantinou. The rout was complete six minutes from time after Smith tapped home from close range, his sixth goal of the competition which gives him a share of joint top spot in leading goalscorers chart, after brilliant play from Taylor Beaton.

Both semi-final matches take place at Hawker Football Centre on Wednesday evening with the 2010 Project Coordination Federation Cup Final taking place on Sunday 27th March with kick off at 4pm.

The 2010 Women's Project Coordination Cup Final will be between Belwest Foxes and Woden Valley for the second successive year after both comfortably came through their semi-final matches, as expected, on the weekend.

The Foxes took their goal tally to 26 in four matches after swamping Tuggeranong United 7-0 at Hawker Football Centre with Canberra United W-League players Cian Maciejewski and Snez Veljanovska again amongst the goals. Maciejewski bagged a brace, taking her individual tally to nine in three matches, whilst Veljanovska scored her sixth tournament goal in the one-sided win.

Emma Beaumont, Lucy Hanrahan and Adelaide United W-League player Georgia Chapman also netted with an unfortunate own goal completing the 7-0 thrashing. Belwest are now just ninety minutes, plus extra-time or penalties, away from a fourth successive Federation Cup win and have not conceded a goal in 360 minutes of competition football this season with goalkeeper Melanie Luksa proving unbeatable between the posts.

Woden Valley will be looking for revenge for last seasons 1-3 final defeat to the Foxes and have romped to the final having scored fifteen times and conceded only once. That goal came on the



Woden Valley's Simon Hinde managed to find the scoresheet over the weekend but was unable to prevent his team going down 2-6 to Goulburn Strikers.

weekend as Maja Blasch struck for Belconnen United to give the Blue Devils a surprise 1-0 lead at half-time in their semi-final match.


The second half was all Woden however and goals from Emma Thornton, Meg McLaughlin and Georgia Yeoman-Dale, who scored all three goals for the Belwest Foxes in last season's final against her current club, completed the 3-1 win.

The final will take place at Deakin Stadium on Sunday 27th March at 1.30pm.


In other ACT news Japanese touring side, Nara-Ichijo FC, kicked off their tour of the Capital City with a scarcely believable 20-1 victory over Canberra Olympic Youth. The tourists are selected from years 10-12 at Nara High School in Canberra's sister city and produced a breathtaking display of football. Taking the lead inside ten seconds the tourists showcased all their amazing ability with technical prowess allied to

ACT RESULTS
Men's Project Coordination Federation Cup Quarter Finals
Goulburn Strikers 6 (Daniel Aliffi 5', 35' (pen), Brody Willis 7', Pat Ryan 28', Sam Tyler 35', Blayne Hudson 85') defeated Woden Valley 2 (Simon Hinde 17', Cameron Gordon 33')
ANU FC 2 (Tom McLachlan 35', Tom Rogic 45') defeated Cooma Tigers 0
Belconnen United 4 (Tai Smith 9', 84', David Kemp 60', Cameron Reinhart 70') defeated Canberra Olympic 0
Canberra FC 3 (Ivan Pavlak 42', Michael Spaleta 45', Josip Jadric 88') defeated Canberra City 0
Wednesday 24th March 2010
Semi-Finals (Hawker Football Centre) 18:00 – Belconnen United v Goulburn Strikers 20:00 – Canberra FC v ANU FC
LEADING GOALSCORERS (after Quarter Finals) 6 Tai SMITH (Belconnen United), Lukas COLE (Woden Valley) 4 Daniel BARAC (ACTAS), Danny MACOR (Belconnen United), Misko NAUMOSKI (Canberra City), Michael SPLAETA (Canberra FC), Yianni KARABALIS (Canberra Olympic), Daniel ALIFFI, Brody WILLIS (both Goulburn Strikers), Petar JOSIFOVSKI, Andrew MENEGAZZO (both White Eagles)
Women's Project Coordination Cup Semi-Finals
Belwest Foxes 7 (Cian Maciejewski (2), Snez Veljanovska, Georgia Chapman, Emma Beaumont, Lucy Hanrahan, own goal) defeated Tuggeranong United 0
Woden Valley 3 (Emma Thornton, Meg McLaughlin, Georgia Yeoman-Dale) defeated Belconnen United 1 (Maja Blasch)
Sunday 27th March Final (Deakin Stadium) 13:30 – Belwest Foxes v Woden Valley
LEADING GOALSCORERS (after Semi-Finals) 9 Cian MACIEJEWSKI (Belwest Foxes) 6 Snez VELJANOVSKA (Belwest Foxes) 3 Hope WILKINS (Belwest Foxes), Freya JACOBSEN (Tuggeranong United), Erin CLOUT, Grace FIELD (both Woden Valley)

outrageous skill and a ruthlessness that defied belief. The tour continues with matches against both Canberra FC under-16 and under-18 on Monday evening followed by fixtures with the AIS and ACTAS (Tuesday) and Capital Football High Performance Program under-17 for the Peace Cup on Wednesday evening.



COUCH POTATO DEPT.
* ALL TIMES ARE AEDT



Monday 22nd March
1:45am Scottish League Cup Final Rangers vs St Mirren LIVE
5am Russian Premier Zenit St Petersburg vs Spartak Moscow
6:40am Serie A Sampdoria vs Juventus LIVE
9am Bundesliga Hamburg vs Schalke
10:45am Bundesliga Wolfsburg vs Hertha Berlin
2:45pm Bundesliga Highlights Show
5:45pm Serie A Highlights Show
6:30pm Ligue 1 Highlights Show

Tuesday 23rd March
4am Ligue 1 Lens vs Sochaux
5:45am Ligue 1 Bordeaux vs Lille
7:30am Ligue 1 Marseille vs Lyon
7pm SPL Highlights Show

Wednesday 24th March
6:30am German Cup Semi Final Werder Bremen vs FC Augsburg LIVE
9:30am Copa Libertadores Estudiantes vs Bolivar LIVE

Thursday 25th March
6:30am FA Cup Replay Tottenham vs Fulham LIVE
9:30am Scottish Cup Qtr Final Replay Dundee Utd vs Rangers
11:45am SPL St Mirren vs Celtic
3:30pm Serie A Parma vs Milan
7pm J-League Highlights Show



Monday 22nd March
5:30 pm Futbol Mundial

Sunday March 28th, 2010
3:00 pm 2010 FIFA World Cup Magazine
3:30 pm UEFA Champions League Magazine
4:00 pm Les Murray's Football Feature: French League Cup Final Bordeaux v Marseille.
5:00 pm The World Game

Friday 26th March
6:40am Serie A Napoli vs Juventus LIVE

Saturday 27th March
6:30am Bundesliga Bochum vs Frankfurt LIVE
3pm J-League Kawasaki Frontale vs Shimizu S Pulse LIVE
11:30pm SPL Hearts vs Rangers LIVE

Sunday 28th March
2am SPL Celtic vs Kilmarnock LIVE
4am TBC LIVE
7:15am Portuguese Liga Benfica vs Braga LIVE
9:15am Bundesliga Bayer Leverkusen vs Schalke
11:30pm TBC LIVE

Monday 29th March
2:30am Bundesliga Monchengladbach vs Hamburg LIVE



Monday 22nd March 2010
10:00 am Bundesliga Matchday 27
Eintracht Frankfurt V Bayern Munich
10:00 pm World Football News

Tuesday 23rd March 2010
09:00 am Serie A Matchday 29
Sampdoria V Juventus

Tuesday 23rd March 2010
11:00 pm Bundesliga Weekly Highlights
12:00 am The Serie A Highlights Show

Wednesday 24th March 2010
06:00 am Bundesliga Weekly Highlights (Rpt)
04:00 pm Serie A (Rpt)

Thursday 25th March 2010
06:00 am The Serie A Highlights Show (Rpt)
06:45 am Serie A Matchday 30
Bari V Sampdoria
01:00 pm Bundesliga (Rpt)



WEEK 32
Wed Mar 24 West Ham v Wolves 6.55 am (Fox 3)
Thurs Mar 25 Manchester City v Everton 6.40 am (Fox 1)
Thurs Mar 25 Portsmouth v Chelsea 6.40 am (Fox 3)

WEEK 33
Sun Mar 28 Chelsea v Aston Villa 1.55 am
Sun Mar 28 Birmingham v Arsenal 1.55 am Viewers Choice
Sun Mar 28 Hull v Fulham 1.55 am Viewers Choice
Sun Mar 28 Tottenham v Portsmouth 1.55 am Viewers Choice
Sun Mar 28 Wolves v Everton 1.55 am Viewers Choice
Sun Mar 28 Bolton v Manchester United 4.25 am
Mon Mar 29 Burnley v Blackburn 12.30 am (DELAY)
Mon Mar 29 Liverpool v Sunderland 1.55 am
Tues Mar 30 Manchester City v Wigan 5.55 am

* Game not being shown is West Ham v Stoke



The Futbol Town Show
Every Monday 7pm

Extra Time Magazine Show
Every Wednesday 8pm

The Green Gully Football Show
Every Saturday 10.30am



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PREMIERSHIP

ROUND 22 REVIEW

EST. 2006

PASCOE VALE 09/10 CHAMPIONS

By Adam Hussein

Melb Uni 3 vs. 6 FC Essendon
The scholars Melbourne Uni opened up the card against champions Essendon and started brightly. Jamie Truong led the royal blue outfit proudly for what might be one of their final V-League games. Alexander Stevanovic on the other hand scored a magnificent five, won the golden boot and confirmed Essendon's spot in the V-League next season. The game ebbed and flowed and was only marred by Melbourne Uni talisman Duke Duva's red card. Morris Edwards, Alex Victory and Taylor Curry scored solitary goals for the scholars; while Lubomir Erakovic scored FC Essendon's other goal. Not a memorable season for Essendon, Melbourne University will play Doncaster next week in a mammoth clash that will see the loser immediately relegated from the prestigious V-League



Milton Sakkos Manger of Nth Melbourne FC "Just missed out in lifting NMFC's third premiership title in five seasons"

Pascoe Vale FC 9 vs0 Albert Park
Pascoe Vale finished the season in the emphatic style they played every week with a solid defensive team performance and a ruthless streak up front to win 9-0 and condemn Albert Park to a relegation play off against Collingwood FC from the State League Championship. But this was Pascoe Vale's night, with regulars Laskaris, Simsek, Grgic & Lamanda sensational. They played a fast and furious game with crisp passing and clinical finishing, Lamanda scoring 6 fantastic goals. There was no shining light for Albert Park, who was without a first team goal keeper and had Dejan Dragic in between the sticks and they wilted under relentless pressure. Pascoe Vale FC are the 09/10 V-League Premiers and will be awarded the \$5000 prize money on behalf of Futsal Oz. Pascoe Vale will be one to watch in the Souvlaki Hut cup and their first game is against former champions FC Essendon in what is



Pascoe Vale FC BR: M.Cuna, C.Simsek, M.Barbossa Jnr, G.Lascaris GK, J.Sastre. FR E.Simsek, T.Grgic, S.Lamanda. not present V.Mosquita, A.D'Ortenzio, A.Fruscalzo, J.Sorenson GK

looking to be a mouth-watering clash of youth and experience.

Metro FC 3 vs 2 FC Carlton
This gargantuan battle between gutsy Metropolitan & cultured FC Carlton was one not to miss! Metro were back in town with a 5-star performance after minor hiccups to FC Geelong & Fitzroy FC in previous weeks. FC Carlton was there staunch defensive selves, conceding very little space in defence and pummelling Jason Ng in goal. Hooman Shekari was back on the scorers list for FC Carlton, as was Hamid Hassnikhoo as they battled tirelessly to break the Metropolitan resistance that had conceded frequently in previous games. Both sides deserved a point, and while FC Carlton finished 5th they will still play cup winners FC Prahran in this years Souvlaki Hut cup while Metropolitan will face FC Fitzroy after finishing 6th this season. FC Carlton had a terrific 22 weeks, even with numerous suspensions and injuries they were the best side defensively and consistent up front. Metropolitan will be one to watch next season as they have gelled well and acclimatized to the heat of the V-League.

Fitzroy FC 4 vs 10 FC Prahran
Fitzroy vs Prahran was the primetime clash of the night but it didn't live up to expectation as FC Prahran ran away worthy winners. Fitzroy were unrecognizable with

only 3 players that had played any part in the previous 8 weeks. Injuries, suspensions and inconsistency have hampered Fitzroy's season and it was summarised in this match. Dimitri Vitoulkas was the only shining light scoring two goals before limping off injured. It was 2-2 at half time and was just a question of Fitzroy's fitness & desire as Frank Luchetti & Steven Sahyounne were both late inclusions Take nothing away from Prahran who were there scintillating selves punishing Fitzroy early in the second half. Maxim Avram was untouchable finishing the night with 4 goals, Haider Noor was his deadly self with 3, Sanjin Lazetic scored a double and Muktar had a solitary goal to his name. He could've scored a few more but was complacent 1 on 1 with the goal-keeper. Smooth sailing for Prahran, Fitzroy need to get there squad organised for the Souvlaki Hut cup.

Ashburton FC 2 vs 8 Nth Melb FC
North Melbourne played for pride as Pascoe Vale had sealed the premiership only hours earlier. They took on Paul Vidics green machine Ashburton in another massive tussle. Ashburton stood firm early as Dixon & Spijodic marvelled in defence and Diego Assaeda was lively up forward. He missed a handful of crucial opportunities and North Melbourne capitalized with Futsalroo Fernando De Moraes scoring an impeccable five goals. Pedic, Barrientos

& Kui Mu chipped in with single goals and North Melbourne went on to win 8-2 with Abdullatif & Spijodic scoring for the green machine. Ashburton were only 3-1 down at half time but must've been counting their lucky stars it wasn't more with Rudi Prosic superb in goals. When the flood gates open North Melbourne go for broke and they were worthy winners and runners up of the 09/10 Legea V-League. The cup awaits both sides; North Melbourne will have to be the overwhelming favourite to win if Fernando plays a part, Ashburton need to regroup fast and select players that have qualified for the cup.



Alija Redzepovic Metropolitan FC finishes second on the top scorers list with 55 premiership goals.

Doncaster FC 4 vs 3 FC Geelong
Arguably match of the round saw immediate relegation threatened Doncaster fight for dear life against FC Geelong. It was an amazing game to watch from the sideline and it end to end stuff early on. Ravel Tavares scored a vital hat trick for the journeyman but it wasn't enough as Doncaster won in a thrilling 4-3 smash and grab. Doncaster had Makris in fine form saving numerous shots from Bond, Calder & Tavares. Bill Giannikos, the ever-present Doncaster striker had a vital double that may have saved Doncaster's bacon for now! Jerry Rombotis & Jason Kounnas added to the tally to sink a Geelong side that had been riding the high of good results & performances in the previous 8 weeks. Geelong had there full compliment but worryingly it wasn't enough to stop a driven and determined Doncaster side. Melbourne University waited anxiously for this result. They play Doncaster in a solitary do or die clash next week. FC Geelong will have to face Brimbank, the in form state league championship side vying for promotion.

LADDER

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	P
1 Pascoe Vale FC	22	17	1	4	160	96	64	52
2 Nth Melbourne FC	22	16	2	4	160	80	80	50
3 Fitzroy FC	22	14	2	6	147	96	51	44
4 FC Prahran	22	12	5	5	133	107	26	41
5 FC Carlton	22	11	5	6	99	79	20	38
6 Metropolitan FC	22	10	2	10	127	106	21	32
7 Ashburton FC	22	10	1	11	109	111	-2	31
8 FC Essendon	22	9	2	11	129	136	-7	29
9 Albert Park FC	22	7	1	14	107	149	-42	22
10 FC Geelong	22	6	3	13	70	135	-65	21
11 Doncaster FC	21	3	1	17	67	140	-73	10
12 Melb Uni FC	21	3	1	17	64	137	-73	10

Rd 22 Results
Wed Mar 17

Melb Uni FC v FC Essendon 3 - 6
Pascoe Vale FC v Albert Park FC 9 - 0
Metropolitan FC v FC Carlton 3 - 2
Fitzroy FC v FC Prahran 4 - 10
Ashburton FC v Nth Melbourne FC 2 - 8
Doncaster FC v FC Geelong 4 - 3

Catch up Round
Wed Mar 24

8:00 Melb Uni FC v Doncaster FC

- Top Scorers
1. A.Stevanovic FCE 58 goals
2. A.Redzepovic MFC 55 goals
3. F.De Moreas NMFC 52 goals
4. H.Noor FCP 51 goals
5. J.Blackburn FFC 43 goals



Alexander "The Great" Stevanovic (right) FC Essendon's striker takes out the Top Goal Scorers award for the third consecutive season with 58 premiership goals

PHOTOS BY MATT MONTGOMERY



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OAKLEIGH CANNONS

3

DANDENONG THUNDER

1

Match Details:

Oakleigh Cannons:
McMaster, G., Cumming, J., Drakos, S., Fitzgerald, J., Webster, S., Watson, C., Obradovic, B., Antic, N., Damianos, B., Karpeh, J. (Drakos, A. 82'), Curcija, M (Diacio, R. 79')

Scorers: Karpeh, 28', Curcija 67' pen, Diaco 87'

Dandenong Thunder:
Webster, S., Rexhepi, S, Bright, J. (Ukalovski, D 64'), Osman, L., Armenian, H., Davidson, R., Ibraimi, I. (Avdulai, A 73'), Korcarevski, V., Dilorio, J., Sivic, E., Bahnsen, N.

Scorer: Ibraimi 7'

Man on the match: J. Karpeh.

Crowd: 1700
Venue; Jack Edwards Reserve

Cannons shine again



VPL goalmouth action: Oakleigh's Neven Antic rises high to win the header against Thunder. PHOTO: PETER KAKALIAS

By George Stogiannou

Oakleigh Cannons retained top place and its unbeaten start to the VPL season with a hard fought 3-1 win over Dandenong Thunder at Jack Edwards reserve on Friday evening.

Although the margin in favour of the home team was comfortable in the end, the match itself was a keenly fought contest and had the large crowd entertained until the final minutes when Oakleigh scored the sealer on a break-away.

But it was the visitors that took the lead early in the match.

At the seventh minute, last season's Golden Boot winner Joe Dilorio put pressure on the Oakleigh defence inside the box, which eventually caused a rebound across the face of goal for Thunder midfielder Ibraimi Ibriami to tap in at the far post for his first Premier League goal.

Thunder's bright start ensured a high tempo first half, in which the visitors played with a vigour and confidence reminiscent of last year. They could have easily scored a second soon after their first when winger Hamlet Armenian intercepted a pass from new Cannons keeper Griffin McMaster, in the box, only to shoot wide of the target.

After their early shakiness in defence, the home team settled into the match and began to impose its style of play on the game, looking to play out of defence through the middle and setting up attacking moves through quick fire passing combinations. Striker Jerry Karpeh scored the equalizer on the half hour when he found himself at the pointy end of one such combination through the middle involving Oakleigh midfielders Bill Damianos and Cameron Watson. The athletic Karpeh created a metre of space for himself on the edge of the box, and his low shot took a deflection past a diving Stuart Webster's right hand to cancel out the

visitors' early lead.

With the game evenly poised, Thunder once more looked to assert itself early in the second half and striker Dilorio almost capitalized on a defensive error only to be foiled by Cannons keeper McMaster. At the other end, Karpeh set up fellow striker Michael Curcija for an excellent chance in front of goal only for a timely last ditch tackle from Dandenong's Ryan Davidson to deny him.

But there was no denying Curcija in the 65th minute when the referee awarded a penalty in his favour after a challenge from Dandenong midfielder Shane Rexhepi in the box which appeared to involve minimal contact. The decision raised the ire of the Thunder bench and fans who watched aggrieved as Curcija finished clinically from the spot kick to put the League leaders in front.

The visitors responded strongly without creating clear cut chances. With time running out the Thunder coach sent on an extra striker for a defender, pushing young right back Enis Sivic centrally into a back three. With minutes remaining Thunder won a corner which the home team defended with all eleven players. The ball broke to Cannons defender Stelios Drakos who sent a long ball forward. As young Thunder defender Sivic attempted to control the ball, Cannons defender Neven Antic stole the ball to feed substitute Ricky Diaco who netted in a one on one with the keeper to put the match beyond Thunder's reach.

A disappointed Thunder coach Stuart Munro commented after the match, "When things go against you and you lose games and you get heavy losses, you've got to look at the performance as a coach because you've got to see if there's areas where you can turnaround. Look, I think today we did very well, we were very competitive. I thought the

first 20 minutes of the second half we were terrific. We had the run of play. Disappointing the penalty. I thought it was very soft. But these things happen. When you're down these things tend to go against you.

The score looks a lot worse but I think the competitiveness and the attitudes of the players were terrific. If they maintain that we will get out of this. ..once we get players back we will turn it around. But at the moment it's hard because we're up against top teams. We've got another tough match next week against South Melbourne."

Oakleigh coach John Anastasiadis was understandably upbeat about his teams's performance. "Especially the first half, it was super football. You know we se set out to play football this year and that's what we've been

doing.

And we've been getting the results. We're starting to get things right and that's great to see. I want my teams to be able to play some good football and with that, come the results. We knew that Dandenong are pretty wunded at the moment but they're still a very good team. They scored early but we got ourselves together and really controlled the game from then on."

When asked what was the main difference between this year's Cannons squad and last year's squad, Anastasiadis replied, "I have to say the dressing room is a much happier place. You've got to have personalities and in our dressing room we've got some personalities. It's fantastic to see. The boys are happy and when you're happy you get results."



Oakleigh's Man of the Match, Jerry Karpeh, comes under some close attention from Thunder Levent Osman.

PHOTO: PETER KAKALIAS



Thunder's Shane Rexhepi makes the challenge that brought about Oakleigh's penalty - much to the ire of the visiting fans.

PHOTO: PETER KAKALIAS



RICHMOND EAGLES



2

HEIDELBERG UNITED



1

Match Details:

Richmond: S.Gal, A.Viola, E.Karahan, D.Tsiaras, J.Krnecvic (M.Lujic 83'), D.Visevic (D.van't Schip 79'), D.Scullion, T.Uskok (P.Sawan 67'), A.Kovacac, M.Catalano, T.Milardovic.

Goals: Visevic 22' Sawan 85'

Yellow Cards: Tsiaras 31' Kovacic 37'

Krnecvic 59' Milardovic 70'

Red Card: Karahan 6'

Heidelberg United: S.Tilovski, P.Miller, C.Elvin, L.Byles, S.Martin (R.Saglam 46'), J.Kozic, O.Ederaro, A.Andrade Del Melo, S.Alexovski, H.Matkovic (R.Muriqi 75'), M.Tsiorlas (H.Basma 46').

Goal: Ederaro 62'

Yellow Cards: Matkovic 36' Miller 73'

Red Cards: None

Man of the Match: A.Viola (Richmond)

Venue: Kevin Bartlett Reserve

Crowd: 250



Eagles' Erhan Karahan gets to hog the hot water after seeing red early in the match. PHOTO: ANITA MILAS



Heidelberg's defence tries to clear its lines under pressure from an Eagles attack led by Jesse Krnecvic PHOTO: ANITA MILAS

10 man Eagles soar

By Mark Boric

The fourth round of the 2010 VPL season saw Heidelberg United visit Kevin Bartlett Reserve to take on Richmond. Both sides have had contrasting starts to the season, with Richmond coming off a big 3-0 win at Dandenong Thunder to keep them up with the pacesetters at the top of the table. Heidelberg, yet to notch a win and hampered by a three point deduction, were anchored at the foot of the ladder.

The opening minutes were dominated by the home side, with Heidelberg unable to cross the halfway line a single time when they gained possession of the ball. In the sixth minute Erhan Karahan was shown a red card after Adilson "Junior" Andrade De Melo went down clutching his face as the Richmond defender broke away from him. Referee Hakan Anaz consulted his assistant before making the potentially game-changing decision.

In the tenth minute Dimitri Tsiaras made a strong run, breaking into the penalty area on the right and sutting the ball back from the line which forced a clearance that conceded a corner. A minute later a cross from Daniel Visevic on the left was blocked into the path of Tom Uskok, who fired in a shot which was also blocked. A long range

shot from Osagie Ederaro cleared the goal by some margin before Junior shot wide after picking up an overhead clearance from Michael Catalano.

In the nineteenth minute Steve Tilovski needed to claim a dangerous cross from David Scullion under pressure from Catalano. Three minutes later a free kick on the left by Scullion was headed back from the far post to Visevic, who shielded the ball from a defender before lobbing it over the advancing Tilovski to score for a fourth consecutive game.

The lead could have been doubled seven minutes later, a long kick from Stjepan Gal being flicked on by the head of Jesse Krnecvic to an overlapping Visevic, who shot narrowly wide from outside the box. Heidelberg were unable to make any use of having an extra man, and by sticking with just one player up forward let Richmond revert to a back three and maintain the numbers to hold and control the game in midfield.

Tsiaras went into the referee's book for a sliding tackle on Ederaro on the edge of the penalty area on the right side, with the free kick comfortably cleared. Kovacic also picked up a booking for a rash challenge near the touchline, but Richmond were largely untroubled in maintaing their 1-0 lead into the break.

Heidelberg began the second half in

better fashion, and had a chance when a crossfield ball found Ederaro in the box, but he dwelt on the ball and the opportunity to shoot disappeared. In the fifty-fourth minute Hamid Basma was fouled on the edge of the area. Jospic Kozic chipped the free kick straight to Gal. Seven minutes later a turnover by Scullion saw Kozic play in Basma on the left but his shot went wide.

A run down the right from Paul Miller produced Heidelberg's equaliser in the sixty-second minute. From near the corner flag he sent in a cross to the near post which saw Ederaro leap to head the ball into the net. With playing a man short beginning to take it's toll, Heidelberg would have thought that a first win of the season was now there for the taking.

The Eagles introduced Peter Sawan in midfield for the fatigued Uskok and he was soon in the action, fouling Tilovski when competing for a cross from Catalano. Two minutes later he shot at Tilovski from thirty yards. A tremendous run from inside his own half by Visevic came to an end as he was tackled inside the box. With fresh legs required he was soon replaced by debutant Davey van't Schip. In the eighty-first minute a Sawan run ended with the ball being blocked into the path of Krnecvic who made the room to shoot but his effort was off target. Krnecvic then made way for Milos

Lujic.

The ascendancy had already been regained by the Eagles, who were finishing stronger than their opponents. After a corner was played back in a long headed clearance from Scullion found Tsiaras in the middle who played the ball over to Lujic in plenty of space wide on the right. Lujic carried the ball forward before slipping it to Sawan on his right who cut inside and unleashed a shot which beat Tilovski at his near post to put the Eagles back in front.

In the eighty-eighth minute a great ball from Scullion played in van't Schip on the right who raced towards the penalty area to face Tilovski. His attempted chip landed wide of the post and the opportunity to seal the match went begging. Tom Milardovic and Andrew Viola though, continued to hold Richmond together at the back as superbly as they had all game, and after three minutes of stoppage time they were able to celebrate a memorable victory.

Heidelberg will have a home fixture against Oakleigh Cannons next Sunday to try and find the win that will get them into positive figures on the league table. Richmond will travel to Knights Stadium to meet the Melbourne Knights and keep up their promising start to the season.



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HUME CITY



2

MELBOURNE KNIGHTS



0



Hume United's Phil Riccobene gets shirty with Melbourne Knights attacker Jean Charles Dubois. PHOTO: STEVE STAREK

Hume continues to take high road

By Karlo Jelintic

THE Melbourne Knights are still winless after a disappointing performance against the undefeated and in-form side of the competition Hume City, going down 2-0 away at SS Andrews Reserve.

Despite the score-line it was a tight contest between the two sides. Hume was lucky to take the lead through a goal keeping blunder late in the first half which effectively won the game for the home-side.

The early stages of the match saw the Knights have the better of play. With the Knights being rather unlucky not to go ahead with one opportunity which saw some desperate Hume defending clear away a shot on an open goal, as well as an incident where calls for a penalty for an apparent handball waived away by the referee.

On the 16th minute the two Colosimo's combined to create a golden opportunity

for the Knights, a through ball from Anthony Colosimo released Jacob Colosimo on a one-on-one with keeper Lupce Acevski. The former Knights keeper was quick to react as he came off his line to dive at the feet of Jacob Colosimo, parrying the ball away.

Jacob Colosimo was again in the thick of the action, on a nice run he beat a couple of defenders before sending in a low cross into the box where Adrian Zahra was storming in to meet the ball. The youngster's first touch let him down as the Hume defence cleaned up the ball

Hume had a great chance to take the lead with a spectacular half volley from veteran Tansel Baser on the 35th minute, the cracking shot from the edge of area smashed against the post.

With the half coming to a close Hume won a free kick from 30 meters out. The poorly taken free kick from Steven Bosevski went straight to Loncaric, the keeper bent down for any easy save but somehow the ball went straight through

his legs for an embarrassing goal.

Ten minutes into the second half the home-side doubled their lead, a high cross into the box was brilliantly brought under control by player-coach Andy Vlahos, who slotted it past a hapless Loncaric.

The Knights almost pulled a goal back soon after through Englishman Kevin Townson, his shot on the edge of the box sailed just wide of the mark.

Midway through the half a flurry of corners for the Knights saw the visitors apply immense pressure on the Hume defence as they desperately tried to pull a goal back, but Hume withstood the onslaught.

Hume stood firm for the rest of the match as the home-side was content to sit back and absorb the pressure, while hitting the Knights with quick counter attacks which proved a handful for the shaky Knights defence.

Loncaric would redeem himself somewhat for the Knights in the latter stages

of the match with a string of good saves, including one against a dipping free kick which saw the Knights keeper tip the ball over the bar.

In the end Hume deservedly earned the three points in what was yet another solid performance from the Turkish-backed side, who are the only side in the VPL yet to drop a point. The side has clearly shown it will be one of the contenders for the title come finals time.

The Knights now sitting in second last position will be hoping to get their season back on track this coming Sunday when they host the high flying Richmond. It will be a must win match for the North Sunshine club in order to stay within touching distance of the early front runners.



Knights' Bryan Bran gets over Hume's Zoran Petrevski. PHOTO: STEVE STAREK

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ALTONA MAGIC



0

NORTHCOTE CITY



1



Northcote City get that winning feeling after upsetting the magic and notching their first win of the season.
Inset: James Kalafatidis gets the winner. PHOTOS BY PETER PSARROS

Northcote puts champs on the ropes

By Luke Sheehan

NORTHCOTE City took all three points from its trip to Paisely Park Soccer Complex, winning 1-0 over ten man Altona Magic.

City took the lead in the first half, before defender Sime Kovacevic was sent off, leaving City with the lead and the numerical advantage on the park. Altona captain Pece Siveski said his side was able to lift despite being a man down, but lacked the finish and the luck to find the back of the net. "Initially you tend to lift, you have a break and then you regroup, we tried to pick it up in

the last ten minutes or so, they cleared the ball off the line on a number of occasions, and we need a bit of luck.

"We had six players out today, and it's really hard to get a result when you've got that much quality out of the team."

Siveski said he was looking forward to his side opening up and scoring goals, after netting just one in four games.

"Hopefully (we start scoring). It can't get worse with four games for one goal, we've created a number of chances, just need that final ball which is lacking at the moment, its not just about chances, we've

been in situations where it's the final ball or final touch and we're choosing the right option."

City assistant coach Alex Gymnopoulos said his side achieved its aim of taking home the three points, its first win for the season.

"Obviously getting a win under our belt after the first three weeks was the main factor, the three points was on our mind



James Kalafatidis gets the winner. PHOTOS BY PETER PSARROS

before the game. The way the game panned out, the first half we were quite good."

Gymnopoulos said Altona were deprived of chances in the second half by his defence.

"They had one chance in the

last 45 (minutes) whereas in the last 15, we broke through quite a few times, had a few actual sitters- one-on-one with the keepers, muffed those, but in general we were in cruise control."

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SOUTH MELBOURNE

GREEN GULLY

Match Details:

South Melbourne: Peter Zois, Stiven Mrkela, Steve O'Dor, Daniel Vasilevski, Carl Recchia (Sebastian Petrovic 75'), Gianni De Nittis, Joseph Youssef (Yusuf Yusuf 21'), Rama Tavsancioglu, Fernando De Moraes, Marinos Gasparis (Sam Torrens 70'), James Stefanou

Goals: Fernando De Moraes 5', 56'

Green Gully: Kenny Gerochristodoulou, Steve Burton, Cameron Drake, Jeffrey Fleming, Josh Groenewald (Michael Anderson 77'), Gary Wales (Jonathon Munoz 64', Graham Hockless, Nick Robinson, Ryan Ollerton, Mile Medjedevic, Andy Vargas

Goal: Gary Wales 10'



Gully's Josh Groenewald tries to evade a sliding tackle from South's James Stefanou. PHOTO: PETER KAKALIAS

South opens account

By John Kyrrou

South Melbourne FC has won its first match of the season, following an extremely hard-fought 2-1 victory over Green Gully at Bob Jane Stadium on Sunday evening. The home side won the match following a brace from Fernando De Moraes.

South entered the match on the back of a 3-3 away draw against Northcote City, whilst the visitors arrived at Lakeside following a 2-1 home defeat against Oakleigh last week. A win was essential for both sides in order to jump into the top five.

South began the match strongly and opened the scoring in the fifth minute from the penalty spot. Joseph Youssef held the ball up well and was subsequently brought down in the box following an attempted turn and shot. De Moraes stepped up to the spot and dispatched his penalty coolly by slotting it to the right of Gully keeper Kenny Gerochristodoulou, who went the wrong way.

Gully equalised just over five minutes later following an error in midfield from South. The loose ball was pounced upon by Andy Vargas and his excellent through ball put Gary Wales one-on-one with Peter Zois and Wales levelled the scores. Zois prevented South from going 1-2 down after tipping a Steve Burton shot from distance onto the crossbar just

before the halftime break.

In the second half, both sides had a few half-chances to take the lead but the score remained locked at 1-1. That was until an outstanding goal from De Moraes broke the game open and ultimately ended the scoring for the afternoon. Captain Rama Tavsancioglu played a beautiful through ball for the Futsalroo to latch onto. De Moraes controlled the ball nicely before smashing it past the advancing Gerochristodoulou, who had no chance of saving the shot. The goal was De Moraes' fifth in four matches this season.

The remainder of the match was a real battle, as Gully pressed for an equalising goal whilst South tried to catch Gully on the break. De Moraes almost had a hat trick but was denied by a fantastic save from Gerochristodoulou following a vicious shot from the left side of the box. Substitute Yusuf Yusuf got past his marker on the right hand side and played an excellent low cross to the near post that unfortunately no South player was able to reach in time. Gully then nearly levelled when substitute Michael Anderson put the ball wide of Zois' goals, with good defensive pressure from James Stefanou contributing to the end miss.

Zois proved to be the hero for the afternoon when he made an outstanding double save in the final seconds of the match. The initial shot from Gully drew out an excellent reflex save from the South custodian, before he quickly bounced to his feet and pushed away a



South's Carl Recchia challenges Gully's Graham Hockless. PHOTO: PETER KAKALIAS

second incoming shot from captain Jeffrey Fleming. The ball was eventually cleared with the sound of the referee's final whistle, giving South a grinding victory and moving the home side into the top five.

Green Gully faces the NTC in a mid-week fixture before hosting the Altona Magic at Green Gully Reserve next Saturday. That evening, South travels to George Andrews Reserve to face the Dandenong Thunder.



South custodian Peter Zois tips one over the bar. PHOTO: PETER KAKALIAS

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SUNSHINE GEORGIES



0

BENTLEIGH GREENS



2

Match Details:

Sunshine George Cross: 1 Martin John, 24 Douglas Cameron, 21 Christos Konstas, 33 Luke Grounds, 28 Kyle Joryeff, 22 Gary Greenhill, 32 Barry Devlin, 8 Fidell Richards, 25 Stuart Nicholson, 10 George Papadopolous, 6 Steve Beck.
Used subs: 31 Evan Christodoulou, , 17 Ben Cogger
Unused subs: 7 Matthew Cini, 47 Antoni Pecora, 36 James Blackburn

Bentleigh Greens: 6 Con Anthopoulos, 5 Sam De Vito, 1 Peter Gavalas, 14 Anthony Oularis, 19 Dean Piemonte, 10 Alex Rojas, 18 Johnny Sapazovski, 2 George Stavridis, 17 Jack Webster, 24 Damir Lonvancic, 25 Luke Fitzpatrick.
Used subs: 9 Taxiarris Apostolikas, 12 Adam Fadljevic, 4 Craig Smart
Unused subs: 20 Denis Alilovic, 21 Clifford Henry



Action from the late VPL game last night between Sunshine Georgies and Bentleigh Greens. PHOTO: DANIEL FLIS

Greens shock Georgies

By Luke Sheehan

SUNSHINE George Cross suffered its first defeat of the season when it went down 2-0 to the promoted Bentleigh Greens at Knights Stadium on Sunday night.

The Georgies conceded two goals in the space of a minute early in the second half, the first of which a penalty converted by former Sunshine front man John Sapazovski.

Andy O'Dell had only these words to say following his side's first loss in 2010.

"Did the team manager pick the team?"

O'Dell typically wears his heart

on his sleeve, but clearly frustration kicked in when his side leaked goals immediately after the break to seal the win for Bentleigh.

Bentleigh captain Peter Gavalas said he has been pleased with his side's unbeaten run after four games in its promotion season.

"Two wins and two draws, conceded a penalty and a general goal so we're happy with the way we're defending.

"Everyone's happy, could not have asked for a better start."

Gavalas said his side started well against the previously unbeaten George Cross, and were eventually able to net two goals to clinch the points.

"Pretty happy, I thought we started well, but we let them back into the half. We dealt with the pressure when we were under pressure, but we had three of four good chances and we put away two of them so I'm pretty happy with it.

The Greens take on fellow promoted side Northcote City this week, who had a 1-0 win over 10-man Altona on Sunday, but Gavalas said his men will be focussing on their own game.

"We'll approach it like we approach every week, we know what we're good at, we'll stick to our strengths, and go for the three points again."



VPL Standings Round 4

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PT
Oakleigh Cannons	4	3	1	0	8	2	6	10
Hume City	4	4	0	0	10	2	8	9
Richmond	4	3	0	1	8	5	3	9
Bentleigh Greens	4	2	2	0	5	2	3	8
South Melbourne	4	1	3	0	7	6	1	6
Sunshine Georgies	4	1	2	1	3	4	-1	5
Northcote City	4	1	1	2	6	7	-1	4
Green Gully	4	1	0	3	6	7	-1	3
Dandenong Thunder	4	1	0	3	3	10	-7	3
Altona Magic	4	0	2	2	1	3	-2	2
Melbourne Knights	4	0	2	2	6	9	-3	-1
Heidelberg Utd	4	0	1	3	7	11	-3	-2



VPL Round 5

- N.T.C v Green Gully Cavaliers
DISC Pitch 3 Wed 24 Mar KO 7:30PM
- Northcote City v Bentleigh Greens
John Cain Memorial Park Sat 27 Mar KO 3PM
- Green Gully Cavaliers v Altona Magic
Green Gully Res Sat 27 Mar KO 3PM
- Dandenong Thunder v South Melb
George Andrews Res Sat 27 Mar KO 7PM
- Hume City v Sunshine Georgies
Broadmeadows Valley Park Sun 28 Mar KO 3PM
- Melbourne Knights v Richmond
Knights Stadium Sun 28 Mar KO 6:00PM
- Heidelberg Utd v Oakleigh Cannons
Olympic Village Sun 28 Mar KO 7:00PM

VICTORY
PLAYER RATINGS

Mitch Langerak – 8 An outstanding performance from Victory's young keeper. He was caught out by a shocking deflection of Sukha, but otherwise he was extremely dependable and did a terrific job of ensuring his side had every chance to claim a second consecutive title.

Kevin Muscat – 6 Neither playing tremendously nor playing poorly, Muscat struggled to impose himself on the game for large portions of the game. His quickly taken free kick allowed Victory to level the match, but his post bound penalty kick did the Victory no favors in the shoot out.

Rodrigo Vargas – 5 Caught out on a number of occasions by Chris Payne, and allowed himself to be beaten much too easily by Alex Brosque in the lead up to Sydney's goal. Failed to really get involved in the game.

Adrian Leijer – 7 A solid defensive performance. He was Victory's most reliable defender on the night, and did the job at the other end of the pitch with a delightful header. Perhaps could have even clinched the win with a similar opportunity.

Surat Sukha – 5 Outside of taking one tremendous shot which only just missed, Sukha really struggled to have any impact on the game at all. The effort was there, but unfortunately the touch and passing ability was not.

Grant Brebner – 7 Worked fantastically hard in the midfield and was arguable Victory's best outfield player. He put away his penalty with confidence, showed tremendous stamina and put in a terrific team performance.

Leigh Broxham – 7 One of very few players to offer any width, Broxham was one of Victory's most enthusiastic performers. His corner taking was very poor, but other than that his ability to hit the lines and get the ball into the box was well noted.

Nicky Ward – 6 Struggled to demonstrate his fine passing ability on this occasion. His technical attributes could not shine through the sheer physicality of the match and as a result he really didn't make any great contributions to Victory's play.

Robbie Kruse – 6 Failed to take on the added responsibility after Thompson's departure, and seemed more content to argue with referees than get on with the game. He never really got a good chance to run at the Sydney defense, and as a result failed to trouble them.

Carlos Hernandez – 7 He really was terrifically contained by the likes of Musialik, but even then, he had some real moments of absolute quality. He remained a threat from free kicks and still found that special pass on occasion, but unfortunately for Victory, couldn't do it often enough.

Archie Thompson – N/A Forced off with an injury very early on in the game, which proved to be disastrous for Melbourne Victory.

SUBS

Marvin Angulo – 6 Very little impact on a game where he had more than enough time to do so. His penalty was a dismal one and his distribution all game was very, very poor.

Evan Berger – 6 Had all of extra time to impress, but really didn't accomplish much at all. Provided great effort, but little end product.

Aziz Behich – 5 Missed an unbelievable chance, but aside from that, had very little impact off the bench.



Sydney FC are crowned champions of Australia for the second time.



Aziz Behic lets a golden chance for the Victory go begging.



PLAYER RATINGS
BY MATT GALEA



PHOTOS
BY DANIEL FLIS



It's agony for Archie Thompson, who was stretchered off early and must now undergo a knee reconstruction.



Sydney FC players mob Sung Hwan Byun after his penalty conversion ultimately won the prize.



Adrian Leijer throws Victory a lifeline to level the scores with a bullet header in the final stages.



Victory players prepare for the sudden death penalties, but alas on this occasion it just wasn't to be.



Another big crowd by Australian standards turned out for the showpiece match of the season



Sung Hwan Byun converts his spot kick to clinch SFC the title. PHOTO BY SYDNEY LOW

SFC
PLAYER RATINGS

Clint Bolton – 8 It's hard to believe Sydney let this guy go. Remarkably clean handling of the ball for the whole game and saved a penalty to boot. Another fine performance from the competition's best goalkeeper.

Sung Hwan Byun – 8 Scored the winning penalty, but was also incredibly important in the build up to Sydney's opener. His delivery from set pieces was consistently good, and he made some terrific challenges throughout the match.

Stephan Keller – 7 Terrific in the air, and was reminiscent of a brick wall. He was hardly troubled by Kruse, who he kept in check throughout the game.

Simon Colosimo – 8 Was awarded the man of the match, but was perhaps lucky to remain on the field after what looked to be a second bookable offence on Nicky Ward. That aside though, he was tremendous at the back, and was perhaps the main reason for Victory's inability to create any real chances.

Sebastian Ryall – 6 One of the poorer performers for Sydney FC. Struggled to make too much of an impact on the game. He was very rash in the tackle and seemed to lack composure throughout the final.

Stuart Musialik – 8 Sydney's unsung hero, he did a wonderful job of keeping Carlos Hernandez as quiet as possible, which proved pivotal in this match.

Karol Kissel – 6 I think many people had to remind themselves that Kissel was even on the field. Rarely did he make his trademark runs into the box, and really struggled to get involved in the game, let alone have any influence on its outcome.

Terry McFlynn – 7 Did a commendable job as Sydney's fill in captain on the night. Covered a whole lot of ground on the night and was another player who really made life difficult for Hernandez.

Mark Bridge – 8 A constant threat all night long, and tested Langerak on a number of occasions. He became the first player to ever score in two different Hyundai A-League Grand Finals, and was Sydney's most dangerous player for the duration of the match.

Chris Payne – 5 Payne simply failed to match the performances of his counterparts on the night. He fluffed his best opportunity when he was presented with a tap in, and really didn't do all that much for Sydney in this one.

Alex Brosque – 7 Perhaps didn't provide the goal threat he usually does directly, but he was responsible for many of Sydney's chances and nabbed an assist for Bridge's opener. A solid performance from the forward.

SUBS

Shannon Cole – 7 Did a solid job after coming on from the bench. His penalty was terrifically saved, and overall his contribution from the bench was a positive one.

Hayden Foxe – N/A Scored his spot kick but not on long enough to merit a rating.

Leo Gibbs – N/A Seventeen year old who came on as sub and made his debut but not on long enough to merit a rating.